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LOOKING GOOD!

The revitalized Civic Center in Susupe sports a spanking new coat of paint, thanks to the efforts of the members of the House of Representatives minority bloc. This project is the 10th in a series of community beautification projects hosted by the minority bloc. The group has future plans of beautifying the basketball court in San Antonio and doing a project on Rota.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Story on Page 3

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, May 13, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	20,221
Fully Vaccinated:	18,315
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,411
Fully Vaccinated:	2,461
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	97

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,060	3	8,063
Recovered	7,831	12	7,843
Active	78	3	81
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	159,302		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	170	0	170
Traced via Travel Screening	134	0	134
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	57		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Cow gutted at owner's fence line

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

A macabre scene happened a month ago when a cattle grazer's cow was left butchered along his fence line at his farm in Marpi last April 20 at 6:30pm.

Two weeks after the incident, the Department of Public Safety released a statement about the incident, after police did a follow up investigation of the case.

The DPS statement said that it received a 911 call reporting a criminal mischief incident at

See COW on Page 4

CCC issues 1st retail, class III cannabis license

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Cannabis Commission issued the first Pro-

ducer Class III and retail licenses to Saipan Select, LLC yesterday at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

See CCC on Page 4



Members of the CNMI Cannabis Commission and Saipan Select LLC pose with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated second from left, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, seated second from right, and Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), standing leftmost, after signing the Producer Class III and retail licenses yesterday at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

JUSTINE NAUTA

'Gov't, CHCC current with monthly utility payments'

» Holley: One of the biggest successes the board has ever seen

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The central government and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. are now current with their payment of their

See GOV'T on Page 4

Better road infrastructure improves the quality of life of our community

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By MIKE SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

During the onset of the pandemic, we were fortunate to live on islands with uncrowded and open public spaces. On Saipan, we turned to the Beach Road Pathway, walking and jogging when indoor exercise facilities were closed. Many hopped on their bikes and navigated the road in Marpi for sightseeing and exercise. Some also biked to work to avoid carpooling. These public spaces gave us a sense of normalcy in the midst of the pandemic—something that crowded cities could only wish for in these challenging times.

See BETTER on Page 4



INSIDE



BUSINESS

SBDC says it is ready to help CNMI restaurants apply for Restaurant Revitalization Fund

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NATION

U.S. health advisers endorsed use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine in kids as young as 12.

PAGE 14



WORLD

Israel on Wednesday pressed ahead with a fierce military offensive in the Gaza Strip.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

AMP virtual open house will bare plans to improve marinas

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The American Memorial Park will be hosting a virtual open house on May 19 over Zoom starting at 8am to welcome the public's input on the National Park Service's proposed plans to improve portions of the entrance channel between the Smiling Cove and Outer Cove Marina and the Outer Cove Marina's east causeway.

The improvement project is proposed to begin in 2022 and will take half a year to a year to complete. During construction, both marinas will remain accessible and safe to enter.

The proposed improvements include an excavation of currently failing shoreline protection systems, installation of engineered rock revetments—large rocks placed along a shoreline to absorb the energy of waves and minimize

shoreline erosion—along the channel leading into Smiling Cove and at the end of the Outer Cove's eastern causeway, and an extension of the sidewalk that goes along the Smiling Cove channel. Additionally, flanking the extended sidewalk with native plants is also proposed.

The two marinas' shoreline barriers were built over 30 years ago, and have since then been damaged by waves and

increasingly intense storms and typhoons over the years.

The virtual open house will take place over Zoom on May 19, beginning at 8am. The link to join is <https://zoom.us/j/93650638338>. Alternatively, those interested in joining can log into Zoom and enter the meeting ID code 936 5063 8338.

Additional comments on the proposed plans are welcomed through June 17 and

can be done by visiting parkplanning.nps.gov/AMME_marina_project and clicking "Open for Comment," emailing at AMME_marina_project@nps.gov, or submitting

a physical letter using the address American Memorial Park, P.O. Box 5198 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950.



File photo shows a damaged area on the west causeway along the Smiling Cove Marina channel. Smiling Cove's and Outer Cove's shoreline barriers were constructed over 30 years ago, and have since then been damaged by waves and increasingly intense storms and typhoons over the years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AMP selected for Teacher Ranger Teacher Program

This summer, the American Memorial Park has been selected to participate in the Teacher Ranger Teacher program. The purpose of the program is to provide teachers an opportunity to learn about National Park Service educational resources and themes while earning continuing education credits through a partnership between the NPS and the University of Colorado, Denver.

Participating teachers will spend 240 hours working with park staff developing an education program as well as completing three graduate credit hours of coursework in Experiential Learning on-

line. Upon completion of the program, teachers will receive a \$3,000 stipend from the university. The program will begin mid-June.

K-12th grade teachers are invited to apply. Note that most work for this summer's program will be completed remotely and the selected teacher must have access to a computer and internet. The deadline for applications is May 26, 2021. To request an application, or to learn more about the program contact Ranger Brooke Nevitt at brooke_nevitt@nps.gov and include Teacher Ranger Teacher in the email subject line. (PR)



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NEW LOCATION

Kilili to Torres: Inspector generals will be watching

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has warned Gov. Ralph DLG Torres that several federal department and agency Inspector Generals will be checking how federal monies such as the \$244-million Community Block Grant-Disaster Recovery and monies that he is working to bring in the American Jobs Plan are kept and managed.

In response to Torres' announcement last week that he created a new office—Infrastructure and Recovery Program—Sablan said the governor is opening the new office to oversee programs/monies expected in the not yet introduced American Jobs Plan Act.

"I am here working with other members and committees to see that the funds for our many infrastructure needs are funded through that bill," Sablan said.

Torres said the creation of the Infrastructure and Recovery Program office aims to streamline the close to a billion dollars of recovery and infrastructure projects in the CNMI. The new office is headed by Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo. Torres said IRP will especially move forward projects such as with the Northern Marianas

College, the Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and road projects such as Route 36 and 35.

In his response in the comment section of an online article about the creation of the new office, Sablan said NMC's and the PSS' autonomy are granted in the CNMI Constitution, while CHCC and CUC are independent public corporations. The delegate said these agencies and entities have, by law, immunity from the

» Delegate says autonomous agencies can work better than new office

arbitrary exercise of authority and political independence. "They have their own procurement rules and regulations that govern their contracting authorities," he said.

Sablan said that, by "herding" these agencies, potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in construction projects into a more inferior agency that Torres established makes one wonder if the governor's "naked intention is to control who gets awarded contracts." **See Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' response on Page 11**

Sablan said people are no longer blind to Torres' "self-serving interest in managing the Commonwealth govern-

ment's business."

"Didn't you learn anything from the execution and service of federal court search warrants upon yourself and some members of your family?" Sablan asked.

The delegate said government employees who work against the spirit and letter of federal grants could be subjected to charges as well.

He said the claim that "the governor told me to do something a certain way" is no defense to violating federal grant conditions.

Sablan said just as the federal government, the Federal Emergency Management Agency in this case, refused to reimburse the CNMI for overtime costs, the Commonwealth could be in the hook of millions of dollars of expenditures that paid out and are inconsistent with federal grant conditions.

The delegate asked Torres to allow NMC, PSS, CHCC, and CUC to work on grants that he is working for them. "They do it better than a new office you are establishing from the scratch," he said.

Sablan said he is not working on getting money for these agencies so that Torres can give contracts to his preferred contractors.

RELATED NEWS

Open letter to Kilili. **PAGE 11**



Sablan

House minority bloc members, staff, families beautify Susupe Civic Center

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
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REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives minority bloc, staff, and their family members came together to beautify the Civic Center in Susupe, starting last Monday, May 10. By Thursday, the project was 90% finished and was expected to be finished by the end of the day.

"The pavilion itself is looking great now for our community to enjoy," said Precinct 2's Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

Sablan thanked the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and the Saipan Mayor's Office for their support of the minority bloc's restoration and beautification projects, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services for supplying water to the group's multiple power washers. According to Sablan, around a day and a half to two days of the Civic Center project was dedicated to power-washing the area.

The group's next restoration project will take place in San Antonio, where they will revitalize the basketball court

there. "We want to paint the flooring with the actual specialized paint meant for basketball courts [to prevent skid]. ... We want to give our community the opportunity to enjoy that facility as well," said Sablan.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), who is the minority bloc spokesperson, said this islandwide revitalization project has been ongoing. "This is our tenth project so far. ...



Demapan

We're expanding the scope of our project in partnership with the Economic Council, and we're still focusing on our intent to really beautify the island and [promote] outdoor recreation."

Demapan said the minority bloc will expand its revitalization projects to Rota. "We're excited. In the next couple of weeks we're heading to Rota with the Economic Council to take on our first project outside of Saipan," he said.

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COVID-19 vaccinations expanded to younger population

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Starting today, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will now be expanding the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to 12- to 15-year-olds at the Medical Care and Treatment Site at the CHCC upper parking lot, at the advice of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In a statement from CHCC, it said that CHCC will now offer the Pfizer

COVID-19 vaccine at the MCATS vaccination site. CHCC will accept walk-ins but minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. If not, they must have a parental consent forms.

Separately, Board of Education chair Andrew Orsini said in a text message that the Public School System isn't mandating the vaccine for now, especially for the younger students who have no health issues.

"Younger students (elementary grade) who have no health issues are not required to be vaccinated. The

U.S. CDC says they don't necessarily need vaccination due to their stronger immunity," said Orsini.

When asked about social distancing in the classroom, Orsini said the federal government encourages lessening social distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet in the elementary school level in U.S. schools.

For those who are interested in getting the vaccine, the parent consent forms are available at www.vaccinatecnmi.com. CHCC requires a valid government-issued identification card or birth certificate to be

presented at the time of registration.

Transportation to and from MCATS is free and available for minors with signed parent consent forms. To avail of the free transportation, register online at www.vaccinatecnmi.com.

natecnmi.com, or call 682-7468.

School-based vaccination is being planned in selected schools and will be announced later. Also, the 12- to 17-year-olds who complete their two-dose series will receive gift bags.

GOV'T

From Page 1

utility billings since inking an agreement with CUC last September to resolve their longstanding unpaid billings, according to CUC chief financial officer Greg P. Cruz on Wednesday.

Cruz discussed, through a Zoom meeting, the central government's and CHCC's financial obligations in their agreement, among other issues, before a special CUC board meeting at the CUC conference room at the Joeten Dandan Building.

In response to board treasurer Matthew Holley's question if do they have any billing issue with CHCC, Cruz said both CHCC and the central government are living up to their obligation in the agreement.

He said CUC has been receiving about \$219,000 monthly, with \$150,000 coming from the central government and \$69,000 from the hospital.

"So they've been living up to that obligation. They're current on that obligation in the agreement," Cruz said.

Holley said this great news is one of the biggest successes he believes the board has ever seen because CHCC's unpaid billings has been an issue for so long.

In his presentation, Cruz said CUC's gross receivables are approximately \$70.6 million, with about \$62 million of that considered "an allowance or bad debts."

About 53% of the \$70.6 million gross receivables are CHCC receivables, he added.

As for the other customer classes, about 14% of their outstanding receivables are from the central government, he said.

Cruz did not specifically mention how much the central government and CHCC still owe CUC.

In March 2020, CUC disclosed that the central government's unpaid utility bills amounted to \$10 million while CHCC's reached \$34 million.



Cruz



SOLAR FLOODLIGHTS

Governor's Council of Economic Advisers member Alex Sablan, rightmost, presents the solar flood lights that were installed yesterday at the Koblerville Basketball Court to House of Representatives minority bloc members, from left, Reps. Joseph Flores, Lee Pan Guerrero, John Paul Sablan, Patrick San Nicolas, Roy Ada, and Angel Demapan. This project is a collaboration between the House minority bloc and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CCC

From Page 1

According to CCC, the Producer Class III license is the largest of the commercial production licenses that CCC offers, which permits the licensee up to 5,000 square feet of canopy space for legal planting, cultivation, growth, harvesting, drying, and sale of cannabis to licensed wholesalers, processors, retailers, lounges, laboratories, and/or research certificate holders in the CNMI.

Former Department of Public Safety commissioner Claudio K. Norita, who mans the security of Saipan Select, projects that the community can start buying from them in six to eight

weeks, depending on their harvest. He added that they can start opening their place, but the "main product" is cannabis, and they don't want to open without it.

Harvesting cannabis means that the plant is at its final phase of farming and will be ready to be sold. When asked about the revenue that Saipan Select estimates to generate, Norita said it depends on how many plants are good enough to sell.

"Depending on how many [seedlings] grow. ... We could plant 600 seedlings, [but we could] lose some. ... You can guess how much you're going to get, but you won't get it until you harvest," he said.

Norita said the company is looking into giving discounts to those who have cancer or are severely ill, veter-

ans, and the elderly populations.

According to Norita, CCC is firm in making sure that Saipan Select, as well as other licensed sellers, follow CCC's rules and regulations. This means that Saipan Select cannot donate any samples or gift cards to any raffles or have anyone else to sell their product.

"We're very positive, we're aggressive also, in the way we're doing this now. It's a new venture and we're learning also as we go. We're setting the path for future licensees, and at the same time building a relationship," said Norita.

Norita said Saipan Select will have its grand opening as soon their harvest is ready. The grand opening will be at their retail store, which is behind the Tanapag cemetery.

COW

From Page 1

a farm in Marpi. At the scene, police officers met with the cattle grazer, who said that one of his cows had been butchered along his fence line, with its guts and a few pieces of meat having been left at the scene.

According to the cattle grazer, the cow had been missing for two days. He soon found out what had happened to it after walking around his property to "look for anything out of the ordinary." That's when he

came across the remains of his cow along the fence line to his property. The grazer then called 911 for police assistance.

According to DPS public information officer Dre Pangelinan, the owner/manager claims to know who committed the crime but DPS still has to look into the case and question the suspect(s).

When asked why it took two weeks to release the information, Pangelinan said there were "many different things" DPS had to look at. In some cases, some cases are not released to the public to ensure the safety of the

one filing the report. He added that a release can be made after new information has been received, or after the follow-up investigation. In this case, Pangelinan said the report was forwarded right after the follow-up investigation.

DPS encourages anyone who knows or have been approached by any individual offering to sell you fresh beef to call 911 immediately. If you wish to remain anonymous you may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272. CNMI Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest.

BETTER

From Page 1

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers believes managing these public places, specifically our road infrastructure, will play a critical role in our efforts to keep our islands safe and revive the pandemic-battered economy. The roads will be better lit, and people can safely walk on the sidewalks at any time of the day, boosting Saipan's walkability score and moving us toward a more sustainable future. Similarly, from a health and wellness perspective, complete streets with sidewalks and bike lanes will encourage people to move more—improving the longevity and quality of life for all who call the Marianas home.

A couple of months ago, the Office of Planning and Development and the Garapan Revitalization Task Force worked with other government agencies and private companies to install one-way street signs in Garapan Core (Hotel Street). Their goal is to improve traffic flow and ensure the safety of residents and visitors. The project would also create more parking spaces in our main commercial hub, which we hope to see thrive again when residents return to work and we welcome back tourists.

Last week, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios announced that highway renovations will start this year on Route 33 Beach Road from Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao down to the American Memorial Park in Garapan. Traffic lights will also be installed in key areas, while another proposed road improvement project will include Route 36 or the 3.5-mile

road from the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo to the Bird Island Lookout in Marpi.

GCEA supports the recommendation for both routes to incorporate bike lanes and sufficient sidewalks, as several studies have cited the health, environmental, and economic benefits of complete streets and better road infrastructure.

An article published last year by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, an award-winning think tank pushing for sustainable solutions for the world's most pressing problems, noted that people around the globe became more mobile through biking and walking when the pandemic struck. The unparalleled rise in the number of walkers and bikers on the streets persuaded the United Kingdom government to allocate \$2.5 billion for the improvement and expansion of its pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

In the Marianas, projects like these are less costly than the money that will be spent in the long run for treating diseases caused by inactive lifestyles and pollution from fuel emissions. Investment in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure would also support a more economical way to navigate the island either for work or play. With travelers valuing open spaces and experiences in nature post-pandemic, cycling and hiking holidays at Rota, Tinian, and Saipan's hidden treasures could become more attractive travel packages.

TOGETHER, WE CAN enjoy the beauty of our islands safely, have a healthier community, and come back from the pandemic as a better and stronger Marianas.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-21-019

Island Wide Water Meter Installation

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; replacement of water meters, relocation of a water meter and meter vault, reconfiguration of water meter service laterals, expansion of a water meter vault, installation of gate valves, replacement of vault covers, installation of ladder rungs, driveway and sidewalk restoration, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system and service to the customers affected. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 120 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-21-019, Island Wide Water Meter Installation”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 1, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address alley.reyes@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.


BETTINA TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAESP-21-024

A&E Design Services for the Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) in coordination with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the following projects: Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement in Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from NMHC & HUD.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RAESP-21-024, A&E Design Services for Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 20, 2021**. **Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.


All proposers are advised that CUC and NMHC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC and NMHC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC and NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC and NMHC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Eliceo D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 9:30AM** at the BECQ 3rd Floor Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom (*Meeting ID: 959 2446 1622 Passcode: 181110*) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance. Zoom Meeting access code may change. Please call DCRM for an update.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of April 5 & April 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW**
 - 1) CRM Permit Application No. TMS-2021-025
Project: INVASIVE UNGULATE CONTROL WITH PLANT MANAGEMENT
Applicant: OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF TINIAN
The Office of the Mayor of Tinian is proposing to implement control measures on the effects of taking of the Micronesian megapode by creating additional megapode habitat followed by plant management on Aguiguan Island.
 - a. Agencies' Discussion
 - b. Agencies' Final Determination
- III. OTHER MATTERS**
 - 1) Adoption of proposed amendments to NMIAC § 15-10 to create incentives for building redevelopment and stormwater management
 - 2) Adoption of proposed amendments to NMIAC § 15-10-220 to specify location of permit hearings for projects outside the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota
 - 3) Authorization for DCRM Director to promulgate proposed regulation amendments
- IV. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 043

OCpening Date: May 11, 2021 • Closing Date: May 24, 2021

POSITION TITLE: DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY: CONTRACT: POSITION(S):	Engineer Water & Wastewater Division Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA \$40,084.00 to \$54,113.00 per annum, Exempt Contracted Two (2)
--	--

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Position is assigned to both routine and simple water and sewer facilities and projects.

Duties:

- To perform field measurements for distance, elevation, flows, pressures and other elements related to water and sewer system designs, including configuration of water/sewer facilities, utilizing surveying equipment and GIS system.
- Design size and length of water mains, capacity (pumping rate and head) of booster stations, size, slope, and distance of sewer gravity mains and force mains, size, pumping capacity, and liquid level control of Lift stations.
- Design drawings to portray facilities to be constructed based on completed design and specification preparation for water systems and water sources, transmission and distribution pipelines and storage tank, including wastewater systems and facilities sewer lines, sewer pumping stations and treatment plants.
- Writes reports for engineering feasibility analysis, evaluations, such as water and wastewater flow, well production, water loss, electrical consumption, system hydraulics.
- Prepare scopes of work for a variety of A&E consultant services related to existing and proposed water and sewer systems; Analysis of water system operation performance by pressure zone.
- Operations support such as review of operating mode and system configuration, water leaks detection, repairs and recovery of water loss.
- Ensure proper installation and monitoring of pilot control system using supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA).
- Effects repairs to multiple emergency power generators for the wastewater lift stations;
- Responsible for overseeing the engineering aspect of the water and wastewater system operations modifications, maintenance and repairs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil, Environmental, or Mechanical Engineering and four years of related engineering experience.
Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and wastewater conveyance and treatment concepts; project management principles; construction techniques; safe work practices; applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; reading, understanding, and preparing drawings for construction contracts; preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; interpreting and preparing specifications; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to use computers and related software applications; communicate, interact with co-workers, supervisor, contractors, representatives of other agencies and departments, and the general public to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction; use AutoCAD to prepare plans for utility projects and contracts is a plus. Registration as an Engineer-In-Training in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is preferred but not required. Applicants licensed as a Professional Engineer in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is encouraged to apply.

- **Licensing:**
 - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- **Physical Demands:**
 - o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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'Legislative initiative on MPLT unsupported by facts, history'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Senate legislative initiative that seeks to amend the CNMI Constitution with respect to MPLT is unsupported by facts, history, and is unnecessary in its purpose, according to Marianas Public Land Trust chair Martin B. Ada.

He said the MPLT trustees have always welcomed scrutiny of their decisions and investments, but the proposed legislative initiative that he says is grounded on personal attacks of the trustees "is simply untenable."

Ada expressed the trustees' opposition to Senate Legislative 22-05 in his written comments dated April 30, 2021 and addressed to Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota).

Authored by Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), Senate Legislative Initiative 22-05 seeks to amend Article XI, Section 6 of the NMI Constitution. This will effectively require the MPLT and its board of trustees to exercise transparency and accountability, to provide for "reasonable" expenses of administration by law, and will require the Legislature to appropriate and approve MPLT's annual operating budget.

Quitugua stated in the proposed initiative that the operations, functions, duties, and powers of MPLT and its board of trustees are not clearly defined or enumerated, leading to confusion, contradictory interpretations, and dissension among past administrations, MPLT trustees and members of the Legislature.

Ada said the legislative findings in the initiative are misinformed and selectively ignore the substantial return on investments MPLT has produced for the CNMI as well as its diversified local investments.

Ada said they will be happy to meet and confer with Hocog's committee to respond with full transparency and accountability as to MPLT's investments, administration and activities.

The chairman said the initiative's statement that the trustees do not file financial statements other than their financial disclosure prior to confirmation is "simply incorrect." He said every trustee has and continues to file their financial disclosure statement with the Office of the Public Auditor, pursuant to the CNMI Ethics Act.

Ada said every OPA audit or review has never made any finding that any trustee has failed to file nor refused to file any financial disclosure statement.

He said a section in the initiative concludes that the compensation, travel and per diem

rates, personnel, and operations of MPLT "may be inconsistent with other government boards and commissions." Ada said the trustees follow the CNMI government travel policy and that the trustee have implemented the travel policies of the CNMI Executive Branch.

Ada said the issue of trustee compensation has focused on the necessity of the frequency of meetings that were an issue in 2006—over 15 years ago—and has been corrected by the trustees' own changes to the current policy.

He said the legislative findings of the initiative also purportedly "find" that MPLT does not submit a copy of its annual budget to the governor or the Legislature.

Yet Quitugua himself recognizes that neither Section 6 of Article XI of the CNMI Constitution nor the Planning and Budgeting Act compel legislative approval of MPLT's annual operating budget, Ada said.

He said the language in the Analysis of the 1976 constitution as to MPLT makes it clear that the trustees are authorized by the constitution to "retain sufficient funds for the administration of the trust."

Moreover, he pointed out, MPLT is designed to be "independent of either the executive or legislative branches."

Ada said the language in the legislative findings are unsupported because the trustees' expenditures are subject to annual audit and oversight by the OPA.

He said the trustees have always provided their annual report to the governor and Legislature.

Ada said Quitugua discusses in the Legislative findings MPLT's particular investment with the APLE 501 pilot scholarship program, calling it "questionable conduct" and MPLT's acquisition of private land for its administrative office.

Ada said the trustees did find it good policy to invest in a local scholarship loan program of up to \$3 million—\$1 million each for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—for persons of Northern Marianas descent pursuing higher education.

He said the program was a loan program and MPLT would seek to have organized and formed non-profit organizations that would administer the funds with security pledged to protect MPLT's investment against any loss. Ada said the initial program effort was on Rota with APLE 501 and that organization issued out loans averaging at \$15,000 per loan, totaling \$154,000.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007 Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 Fax (670) 664-2571



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program continues to be open to accept applications for Front liners. Front liners are defined as:

1. Front liners/workers assigned to working on Covid-19 activities with direct contact of individuals for example: workers at testing sites, workers at quarantine sites, law enforcement assisting at testing sites;
2. Law enforcement, public safety officers, CNMI Homeland Security employees, emergency medical services working on Covid-19 activities with direct contact of individuals, including all individuals who work and provide medical services at the hospital or private clinics;
3. Retail cashiers, gas attendants, sanitation workers, bank tellers;
4. Child care teachers, caregivers, including employees in the educational sector.

Front liners who may not necessarily meet income guidelines for the family may still qualify. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please call Genevieve Guerrero, CCDF Eligibility Specialist at 664-2576 or email at dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com or Joella Rosario, CCDF Eligibility Specialist at 664-2575 or email at ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com. You may also want to visit cnmiclp.gov.mp to download the CCDF Waitlist Application Packet.

/s/ Maribel D. Loste
CCDF Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary



Eliceo D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE TO ALL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS ON SAIPAN, TINIAN & ROTA

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) recognizes the economic hardship that CNMI marine sports operators have experienced, and continue to experience, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NMIAC § 15-10-205(h)(4) requires all commercial marine sports permits to expire on May 30th each year. To assist the marine sports community during these challenging times, the renewal fee for commercial marine sports operators whose permit(s) were renewed last year and are set to expire on May 30, 2021, shall be waived. To avail of a permit fee waiver, all currently permitted marine sports operators on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota must submit a complete application package to DCRM on or before May 30, 2021.

Marine sports operations that did not renew their permit last year are not eligible for a fee waiver. For more information, contact DCRM at 664-8300.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
DCRM Director

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Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff, MPLT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC
LAND TRUST,

Civil Action
No. 16-0222

Plaintiff,

vs.

GEORGE R. RABAUIMAN,

Defendant,

NOTICE OF
AUCTION and
JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property entered in the above titled action on March 26, 2021, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust from George R. Rabauliman, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **June 24, 2021, at 10:00 A.M., at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room in Capitol Hill, Saipan**, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot/Tract No. 011 G 413, containing an area of 858 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 07, the original of which was recorded December 16, 1993 as Document No. 93-4415 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

Terms and Conditions of Sale

- Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.
- With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
 - to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - to reject any and all bids.
- Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Email: rttlaw@pticom.com and rttlaw@gmail.com.
- Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
- Change of Terms:** Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 08th day of April 2021.

/s/
ROBERT T. TORRES, F0197
Auctioneer

Navy works to restore access to Tinian's Chiget Beach

By JOANNA DELFIN

NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND PACIFIC

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific and NAVFAC Marianas, in partnership with the Commonwealth of the CNMI government, are working to restore public access to Chiget Beach at the former Tinian Mortar Range.

What was once part of a World War II battlefield, the mortar range was used as a training facility from 1945 to 1994. Following several site

visits and assessments over the years, a remedial investigation began in 2015.

"The range falls under the Department of the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program, as an identified Munitions Response Program site, with the objective to clean up sites impacted by past military usage," said Gregg Ikehara, NAVFAC Marianas remedial project manager. "All bases in the U.S. have been moving [toward] the cleanup of both installation restoration and munitions response sites, which

include former ranges, disposal areas, old dumpsites, storage areas and maintenance sites to protect human health and the environment from contamination due to past Navy usage, which would make property available for future needs."

A non-time critical removal action was started in 2018, and field work began in November 2020 in an effort to restore access to the beach.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed appreciation to the Department of Defense for their commitment in mov-

ing the project forward. "The Chiget range has been a persistent issue for the people of the Tinian and the CNMI as a whole," said Torres. "I am pleased that the remediation work is finally happening. I thank Major Gen. Suzie Vares-Lum and Rear Adm. John Menoni for their partnership in seeing this through and look forward to its successful completion and for the eventual opening of the Chiget beach for access by our Tinian residents and visitors alike."

At the request of the current and former Tinian mayors, and the community's desire to gain

eventual unencumbered access to the beach for recreation and tourism, the Navy chose to address the Chiget Beach portion first before cleaning up the larger part of the remaining range as a consideration to the local community.

"Providing access to Chiget Beach for the people of Tinian is meaningful as that beach holds sentimental value considering our history on the island," said Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan. "With the Navy stepping in to assist with the removal of munitions, the short-term impact to the community is that the people currently do not have access to the beach. In the long run, the benefits resulting from the Navy's work outweigh the short-term impact considering that all munitions and explosives are addressed and removed for future generations to come."

A working group composed of Department of Defense partners, the Tinian Mayor's Office, CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coast Quality, and the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs regularly meet to discuss updates on project progression.

"In support of the long-standing desire of our leaders and people of Tinian to gain eventual unencumbered access to the beach for recreation and tourism, Gov. Torres elevated his efforts through the Section 902 Consultation process and through the partnership that the governor, Mayor Aldan and the Tinian leadership built over the years with the DoD," said Glenna Sakisat Palacios, CBMA special assistant. "On behalf of Gov. Torres and Lt. Gov. Palacios, I would like to thank all members of the working group for the collaboration with our office, the mayor's office and BECQ." (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-094 (A/B)

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 04, 2021 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"(A) PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "F" PICK-UP TRUCK-4WD/FOUR (4) FULL DOOR
(B) PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "J" VAN (7 PASSENGER CAPACITY FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-088

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 04, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE-4WD THE OFFICE
OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY*

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO CABRERA, ADMINISTRATOR OF OGM, VIA EMAIL TO epicabrera@gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS MAY 17, 2021. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED/ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL BIDDERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-ZB-093

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 04, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"36 MONTHS LEASE FOR ONE MULTIFUNCTION OFFICE PRINTER
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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ GERALYN C. DELACRUZ
ADMINISTRATOR, CNMI ZONING BOARD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: May 4, 2021 Closing Date: June 4, 2021

POSITION:
INVESTIGATOR I

EXAMINATION NO.
OPA-21-003

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Address: 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: PO Box 501399, Saipan MP 96950
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INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-004-21
BIDS SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 11, 2021, TIME: 2:00 P.M.
**PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) UNIT TRACTOR & MOWER FOR
THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TINIAN**

THE BID PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES THE EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATION IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING MAY 4TH, 2021 AT THE CPA ADMIN OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVAL BUILDING.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THE BIDS TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **"PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-21"**. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020, \$40-50-1015, & \$40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, FINANCIAL INTEREST, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670)234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
The Estate of JOAQUINA
NEKAFES KANIKI,
Deceased,
Defendant

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 17-0225

THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 7, 2019, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 015 D 54, situated in Sugar King Estates, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 015 D 00, the original of which was registered on September 11, 1975, as Documents no. 4841, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Total area of the property: 982 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances: None

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale will be held on Monday, May 21, 2021, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

The Terms and Conditions of Sale: The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 22nd day of April, 2021:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PHOEBE GRACE
K. REIONG
Petitioner,
vs.
WENCESLAU
A. REIONG
Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
NO. 20-0336

SUMMONS
FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505694 CK Saipan as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2020.

/s/ Clerk of Court

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 | Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner James Edward H. Arriola

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
NED SAIMON ARRIOLA,
Decedent/
Testator.

Civil Action No 21-0150
NOTICE OF HEARING
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DATE: JUNE 3, 2021
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
JUDGE: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIR, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE NED SAIMON ARRIOLA OR HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **James Edward H. Arriola** has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to Probate the Last Will and Testament for the **Estate of Ned Saimon Arriola**, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is **Robert T. Torres**, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or her Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claims should also be sent to **ROBERT T. TORRES**, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Respectfully submitted this 10th day of May 2021.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

MCS junior Jedric Villar directs Theatre Club film production

As part of the ongoing celebration of its 25th anniversary, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents its next production, *Zero2Hero*, which will reopen Hollywood Theaters on May 21. A sequel to *Zero to Hero*, which was released 10 years ago, *Zero2Hero* is continuing a club tradition of having students direct shows, with this movie being directed by MCS junior Jedric Villar.

Villar is no stranger to performing, having been a crew member on several Theatre Club productions and being an active member of the school's music program. Directing *Zero2Hero*, however, has been his biggest role, which he says has been "amazing." As he put it, "Directing the sequel wasn't only fun, but it's also been inspiring to see both cast and crew so enthusiastic."

When asked what he hopes the audience will take away from the movie, Villar said, "My No. 1 goal is to entertain and to inspire." Remembering his source of inspiration for the movie, he recalled, "When I was about 6 I saw the first *Zero to Hero* and I said to myself, I want to do something like that someday." He also believes that the message of the movie is an important one for everyone to learn. "This movie shows us that we all can be heroes, whether that be standing up for someone or even just talking to someone who needs someone to talk to."

As an active member of the school's Theatre Club, Villar noted, "The performing arts not only entertain us, but they inspire us by bringing positive messages to the audience and the performers." Emphasizing his point, he added, "Theatre, film, and the performing arts have the power to change the world."

Zero2Hero stars Jill Mallari and Aleia Santos as Re'ha and Roze, two school rivals who are mentored by their older cousins, Richard and Zero, played by the two stars of the first film, Kevin Bautista and Victor Cabrera. The movie is directed by Villar and was written by school president and the director of the first movie, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, along with Theatre Club AlumKnight Justin Ocampo.

Zero2Hero will have two screenings at Hollywood Theatre next week Friday, May 21, one at 6pm and the other at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Herman's Modern Bakery, Java Joe's, Kagman Mobil, Naked Fish, Shell Puerto Rico, Shirley's Susupe, Tribe Marianas, and the MCS Business Office. To comply with COVID-19 Mitigation Guidelines, tickets are

limited and available only on a first-come, first-served basis.

Launched in 1996, the MCS Theatre Club celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, commemorating over 50 theatrical and cinematic productions, including several Disney musicals, numerous Shakespeare plays, and a number of original productions. The club started this year's celebration in February with the sold-out

premiere of the latest entry in its award-winning *We Drank Our Tears* series, the *Stories of Visitation, Henry, and Dave* at American Memorial Park. Those films were followed up by April's sold-out performances of the club's adaptation of William Shakespeare's classic comedy, *As You Like It*. *Zero2Hero*, a sequel 10 years in the making, continues the celebration when it premieres

next week. Later this year, the club will continue the celebration with another feature film, *Isla*, and the classic musical, *The Sound of Music*.

Zero2Hero was made possible by the generous support of the Frances Sablan Ariola, Great Harvest Bread Co., KKMP, Northern Marianas College, the Northern Marianas Sports Association, Saipan Island Amusement Arcade, San

Vicente Elementary School, and Triple J Enterprises.

Funding for this production is provided by the CNMI CARES Relief Fund for Organizations and supported by the

National Endowment for the Arts through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020. For more information, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (PR)



Mount Carmel School junior Jedric Villar, second from left, directs a scene from the MCS Theatre Club's forthcoming movie, *Zero2Hero*, which will reopen Hollywood Theaters on May 21.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific returned as annual sponsor of Tinian's San Jose Fiesta

Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, joined Tinian in celebrating the 65th Tinian San Jose Fiesta and returned as an annual sponsor.

This year's fiesta was from April 30 to May 1.

Together with the Municipality of Tinian and Agui-guan, Docomo Pacific provides support for one of the island's biggest community events that focuses on culture, hospitality, and tourism, bringing together the community to celebrate as one, while inviting neighboring islands to join in on the once-

a-year experience.

"We remain committed to the island of Tinian as we have done so in the past. The Tinian San Jose Fiesta has always played a significant role in illustrating the resiliency of its people while living out what it truly means to be one with the community. As a proud sponsor of the event, we look forward to the continued growth and partnership in the years to come with the people of Tinian and how we can become even better and stronger together. Biba San Jose," said Docomo Pacific CNMI general manager Pauline Johnson. (PR)

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Opinion

Hafa Adair Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 95

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Balance safety, freedom with vaccine mandates

With the vaccine rollout well under way and hospitalizations declining, it's time to put personal health choices back in the hands of citizens.

While the Michigan Legislature is considering a ban of "vaccine passports," we understand why some businesses and campuses may call for proof of shots.

The government shouldn't punish anyone or deny privileges for private, medical decisions. Rather, state and local governments should provide residents with information and access to the COVID-19 vaccines instead of ultimatums.

Recent legislation introduced in the Michigan House would preemptively prohibit the state and local governments from requiring proof of vaccination.

Rep. Sue Allor, R-Wolverine, who sponsored the legislation, says she was concerned by the concept of vaccine passports and their implications for residents.

Allor touched on the troubling situation created by vaccine passports if participation in society is predicated on getting the shot. Some residents can't get the shot for medical or other reasons, like religious objections or phobias.

Another top concern surrounding vaccine passports is citizen privacy. Besides federal laws protect private medical information, Allor has worries passport vendors might lose control over the sensitive data entrusted to them.

She points to the possibility of data breaches and cybersecurity as another reason the state shouldn't be allowed to inquire about residents' vaccination status.

The bill would prohibit governments from "producing, issuing or providing an incentive for COVID-19 vaccination passports."

While the language doesn't specifically mention public universities like Oakland University and the University of Michigan, there could be amendments coming that would explicitly prohibit those schools from requiring students get vaccinated to live on campus.

These schools are in a tight spot and should have leeway to maintain a safe campus for all students and staff. They need a more nuanced approach from the Legislature that carves out space for universities to require vaccination to live on campus as long as they leave room for medical and religious exemptions.

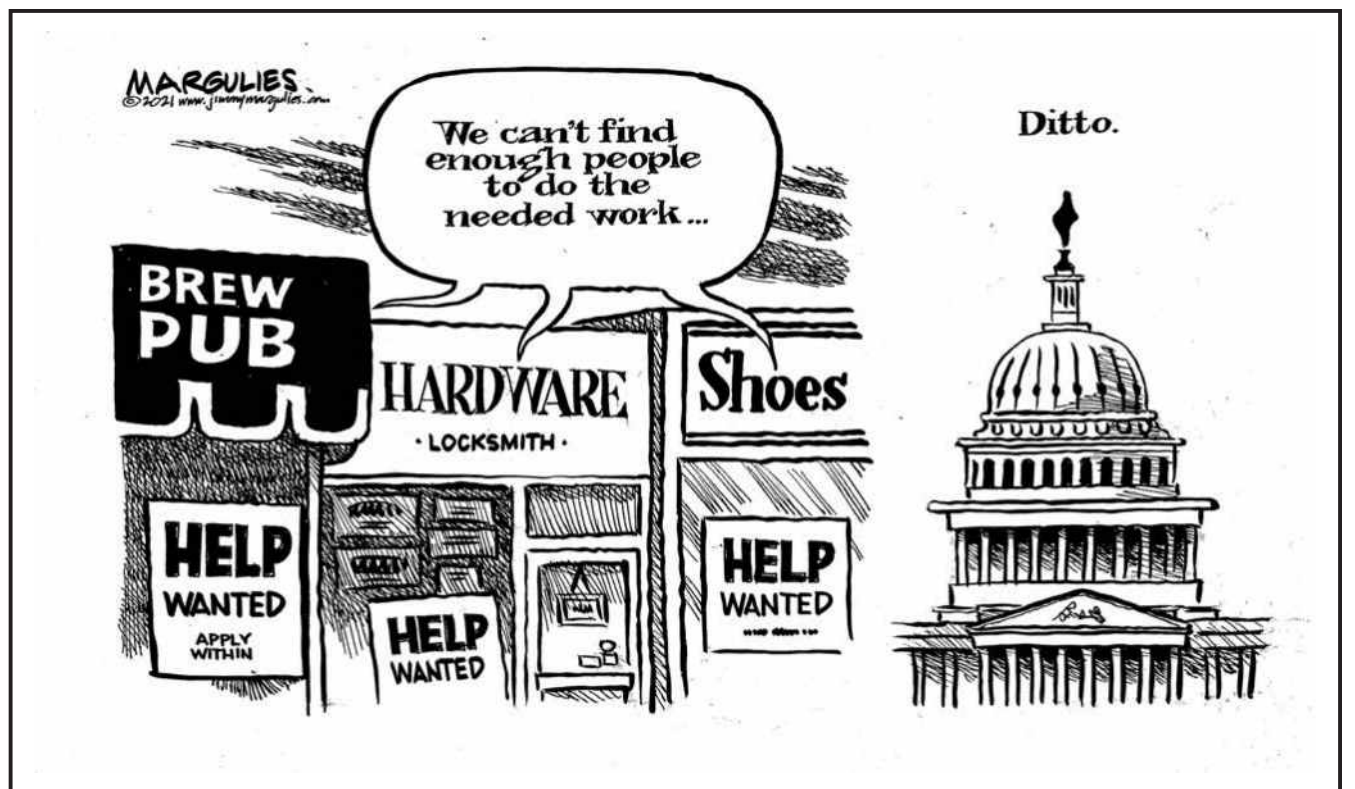
"The vaccine is only required for those students living on campus because they're living in congregant living, in close quarters," says Rick Fitzgerald, a spokesman for UM. "We know students want to be living on-campus. Vaccination is the way to get there."

Fitzgerald says the university does not require any student to live on campus.

More than 90% of UM's freshmen live on campus, however, and having to choose between living on campus and getting the vaccine still poses issues for those unable to get the shot.

That's why college and university administrators should

See **BALANCE** on Next Page



Is the era of small government over?

Regardless of whether you agree with his agenda or not, it is now clear that President Joe Biden does not merely want to tinker with the economy or with social welfare spending. He wants to go big.

If you are a mainstream Democrat, you probably think the president's agenda is moving in the right direction (though more programs to help the less affluent would always be welcomed). If you are a conservative, all you can see is more spending, more government programs and higher taxes on business, which, you think, will hurt economic growth.

"After presenting himself during last year's campaign as a 'transition candidate' to follow the volatile tenure of Donald J. Trump, Mr. Biden has since his inauguration positioned himself as a transformational president," Peter Baker wrote in The New York Times after Biden's April 28 speech to a joint session of Congress.

"The succession of costly proposals amounts to a risky gamble that a country deeply polarized along ideological and cultural lines is ready for a more activist government and the sort of redistribution of wealth long sought by progressives," Baker continued.

Over the last decade, I've written often about the NBC News survey question about the role of government—"government should do more to solve problems/government is doing too many things..."

The question and its responses always seemed to me to foreshadow significant electoral changes, since the United States essentially has one party promoting smaller government, lower taxes, less regulation and "traditional values," and another party that believes government can and must help the needy, regulate big business, work toward a "fairer" economic and tax system, and value and promote diversity.

If the public thinks that the government should "do more to solve problems and help meet the needs of people," the Democratic message should resonate. If Americans think that the government is doing "too many things better left to businesses and individuals," the GOP message should carry the day.

And that's how it has usually worked.

The "role of government" question in the April 17-20 NBC News survey included previous responses to that question going back to 1997. It showed that in June 2020 an unusually large 57% of registered voters thought government should do more, while only 38% agreed that the government is doing too many things.

Historically, that's a huge gap.

The responses to that question suggested voters were ready for a more activist government, which is what Democrats offered in 2020.

In October 2010, weeks before the midterm election produced a Republican tsunami, 50% of registered voters said government was doing "too many things," while only 45% believed the government was not doing enough.

In polling conducted during 2007 and 2008, after almost eight years of George W. Bush in the White House, either a plurality or a majority of respondents said that government should do more.

But here is the "But."

While Democrats like to point to recent "role of government" numbers, which show a solid majority (from 55% to 58%) of Americans want the government to "to do more to solve prob-

By **STUART ROTHENBERG**
CQ-Roll Call



lems and help meet the needs of people," future responses to that question could flip quickly.

The more government does, the more an increasing percentage of Americans are likely to feel that it is doing "too much." The news coverage alone, combined with social media chatter, is likely to move public opinion.

Of course, Democrats now note that the public is quite happy with the Biden agenda. But even a successful Biden presidency is likely to cause some Americans who are currently calling for "more government" to reassess their position.

The normal ups and downs of government—policy failures, personnel problems, new controversies and the inevitable second-guessing of any president—could well boost the "government is doing too many things" numbers and deflate the "government should do more" responses.

That is simply the way things usually work.

Obviously, there are reasons to wonder whether things have changed so much politically that the "role of government" survey question no longer provides the predictive guidance it once did.

President Donald Trump certainly did many things that resonated with those who thought government was doing too much. But his populism was not traditional "small government," except in his support for tax cuts and deregulation of business.

Many Trump supporters thought government should do more, whether in international trade policy or when muscling individual corporations that, for whatever reason, Trump didn't like.

Moreover, Trump drew support from down-scale white voters who wanted to fight corporate America's support for diversity in the workplace and concern with economic inequality in the country.

The current Republican civil war and the extremism in the party also raises questions about whether voters will follow the usual course.

Even if they want smaller government, will they really want to put the party of Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in charge?

It's always tempting to read short-term trends in public opinion into dramatic shifts. And sometimes those shifts are real. But swing voters remain an important force in national and key state elections, and many of them are conflicted about the role of government.

Democrats have to hope that the unusually large majority now saying they think the government "should do more" remains high, but they should also be aware that history suggests it won't.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Open letter to Kilili

To Delegate Gregorio “Kilili” C. Sablan:

It was made apparent to me via a lengthy commentary you posted that was related to the creation of the new Infrastructure Recovery Program that you are exceptionally misinformed about the purpose of this program. I am disheartened that rather than reach out to discuss the IRP and the role it will play in providing much needed professional support to the many agencies involved in infrastructure projects, you opted to take the opportunity to politicize this effort and, most disappointingly, misinform the community.

My administration has made it a priority to bring all of the resources we have at our disposal to ensuring that we maximize the impact of the various lines of assistance the CNMI is receiving from the U.S. federal government. This is a critical time for the CNMI, and I would like to believe you have an interest in seeing these resources utilized in as expeditious manner as possible to see our community and economy strengthened. I would hope that you share the goal of seeing that we fully recover from the natural and health disasters that have beset us over the last several years, and that we are in a better place, with hardened infrastructure, better housing, improved facilities, a beautified community, and have more to offer our residents and visitors.

Virtue & Vices: Peace & Chaos Devices

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

**Chaotic Myopic Optic**

The sun also rose above ground recently froze storm clouds and fatigue slowed my dressing and kept my room and sad mood in the dark. As The World Turns no longer soaps the tube but its unceasingly delivering cold as I shiver. Chaos slowed down for another day clowning around life’s circus as I walked along the river topsy turvy running ahead baiting the hooks searching through crannies and narrow nooks stopping starting my bewildered brain farting. Stop it? No way! The sun will surely rise up tomorrow; joy, sorrow, and doggerel departing. Chaotic confusion odd illusion kettle on the boil logic burns in the toaster of life’s roller coaster.

A Sonorous Release of Peace

A peaceful sonorous sonnet filled with word twisters gets a lease, increases peace, prayers to Saint Therese. How do I know brothers and sisters? Many resistors heard the joyous song and bumble of birds and bees.

Clouds fly away, sun out now, encouraged by gravity’s rainbow, wearing a shimmering multicolored chemise. Distant galaxies and black holes practice no surcease while back on earth neutrinos blow in a tranquil breeze.

Online photos of children of my nephews and nieces some creativity still resides in my failing mental cavities as the sounds of children’s loving laughter increases acrobatic elements of universal peace on life’s trapeze.

When we ‘stop the violence and increase the peace’ tranquility reigns supreme as we catch some ZZZ.

This is why my administration has organized the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors and undertaken a list of priorities for community improvement. It is why we invested so much time in project applications to the Economic Development Administration, to facilitate a cultural event complex, a rehabilitated and state-of-the-art sports facility, the rehabilitation of the Paseo tourist district, and upgraded financial infrastructure. It is why my administration has taken the opportunities to develop new community parks and to restore and lengthen the pathway, partnered to see the CNMI Soccer Training Facility, begun the resurfacing of the CNMI’s major roadways, transitioning to a 21st century financial management system, transforming the One-Start Permit to a portal platform, and why my administration has been driven to see these and many other projects made a priority.

Managing federal funds of any amount is a complex undertaking. You might recall the long history of difficulty the CNMI has had managing our grant resources properly, of threats from grantors, and of the CNMI made ineligible for grants due to mismanagement. My administration has gone to great lengths to address this longstanding problem, and we have been tremendously successful in greatly improving our grants management and oversight, bringing many grants that were in arrears into full compliance and, in fact, facilitating model programs from what once were programs under threat of penalty or closure due to grant fund mismanagement. Excluding the funding assistance received that was related to super-typhoon Yutu or the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI saw a significant increase in the amount of overall federal grant resources received and a significant reduction in negative findings related to grant fund management. This is the direct result the administration has put on taking advantage of available grant opportunities and managing grants properly. A component of addressing this issue was the creation of the Office of Grants Management, which has helped ensure the CNMI capitalizes on grant opportunities and sees exemplary management of our grants. My administration has made it a priority and has delivered an exemplary record of managing the many grants regularly made available to us.

We are now faced with managing a significantly larger amount of funding, an historic amount of funding in fact, at close to one billion dollars over the next few years. The respective personnel at our various departments and agencies that manage their program’s regular stream of grants have been operating at or near their capacity before this additional funding. These significant new federal funding sources, simply put, will require the CNMI to build capacity to effectively manage and coordinate all aspects of these new funds. They will allow us to put professional area-specific resources to project developments at the front-end of these projects to aid in the address of issues related to historic preservation, environmental, and planning, design, and engineering, that are common obstacles to our projects.

Whether it is an additional archaeologist, a compliance officer for Section 106, a civil engineer, environmental specialist, a project manager, or a contract specialist, the ability to bring these resources on board and put to the task of these projects will ensure that we have the capacity to see projects completed expeditiously and properly. Many of our agencies and programs need these professionals to address aspects of their projects funded by various sources, but do not require and cannot justify maintaining them in their full-time employ. This need has been seen by our federal partners including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Air Force. The Infrastructure and Recovery Program will provide these professional resource personnel as necessary to move CNMI projects forward.

The IRP will assist with disaster recovery and public assistance hazard mitigation projects, including those of Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and our many road projects, addressing permitting and planning requirements. Contrary to your assertion, the IRP is not designed

By **RALPH DLG TORRES**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

to infringe on the independence or authority of any autonomous agency. The suggestion you’ve made that autonomous agencies like the Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, or other branches of government like the Judiciary do not need such services is completely uninformed. In fact, all of the above have seen their projects caught up in difficulties related to grant-or requirements, planning requirements, and permitting requirements that have involved the administrative branch permitting agencies and respective federal agencies, and that would have been benefitted tremendously had we had the ability financially to have had this program in place earlier.

Your accusations that this office is being created so that I can “control who gets awarded contracts” is completely baseless and that a lie like that is derived from our representative to the U.S. Congress is deeply disturbing. I would remind you that the CNMI has a robust system for the competitive awarding of contracts and has a robust regime of oversight, both locally through the Office of the Public Auditor and the Attorney General’s Office, and federally through respective federal agencies and their inspector generals. Your untoward accusation is not just an untruth and insult to me, it is an insult to all of these agencies and their professional staff who dutifully carry out their work to ensure the laws of the Commonwealth are adhered to. They are an insult to the departments, agencies, and programs, both Executive Branch and autonomous, who at their suggestion and to address their needs, this program was created.

We both hold positions of tremendous responsibility to the people of the CNMI. In these roles we should recognize this fact and act with a level of professionalism that serves the greater interest of the Commonwealth. It is a shame that you as our representative to Congress do not possess the civility to reach out to gather information on any questions you may have, before deciding to engage in politics in such an inappropriate fashion. We have met previously many times, and each time, you represent a position of collaboration and partnership, only to harm the important relationship between the state government and its representation to Congress when it becomes politically convenient.

My administration is going to continue to focus on doing what needs to be done to ensure that the funding we receive is expended properly and for the benefit of the people. We have managed both our natural disasters and this current COVID-19 pandemic exceptionally. That is not to suggest that we do not make mistakes or do not need to reevaluate along the way, but your continued pitch to the community and, in fact to the federal government, that resources are being misused or squandered, is not only absolutely false but such suggestions by our very own representative to Congress, are unbecoming, unhelpful, and, in fact, harmful to the CNMI.

My phone remains available and my door remains open to you should you have questions or need information. As I have said many times prior, in times when the media spotlight does not allow you the opportunity to continue these tiresome political games, I would prefer, for the benefit of our Commonwealth, that you reach out to seek any answers you need, rather than you continue to engage in political gamesmanship, especially when we are on the ground working every day to fully recover from the natural disasters and navigate our community safely through the COVID-19 pandemic.

weekly test.

The Legislature is right to stand up for personal liberty, but lawmakers must preserve the goal of letting businesses, institutions and individuals make the best choices for themselves as they seek a return to normalcy.






BALANCE

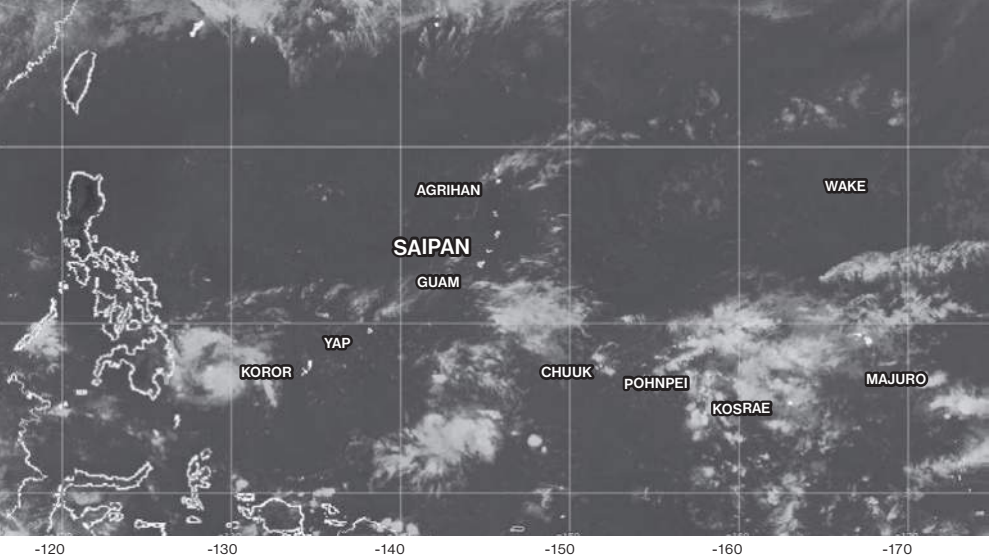
From Page 10

provide for students with legitimate reasons for not getting the shots. And some are.

The UM-Dearborn campus, for example, will allow students to attend without proof of vaccination if they show a negative

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:37 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows scattered showers approaching the Guam and Rota waters, with isolated showers moving through the Tinian and Saipan waters. An upper-level trough to the northwest is helping to add some thunderstorms to the mix. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet which are composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell, with some wind waves mixed in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Sunny	88 79 °F	
Palau	Partly cloudy	87 78 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87 72 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85 81 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 78 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Majuro	Partly cloudy	86 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:22 AM	8:42 PM	-
Saturday	8:09 AM	9:34 PM	-
Sunday	8:59 AM	10:26 PM	-
Monday	9:52 AM	11:16 PM	-
Tuesday	10:46 AM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	66 61 °F	
Beijing	Partly cloudy	88 73 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	83 76 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	82 72 °F	
London	Rain	65 53 °F	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	70 56 °F	
Manila	Partly cloudy	90 79 °F	
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	65 46 °F	
Miami	Sunny	88 72 °F	
New York	Partly cloudy	65 48 °F	
Osaka	Sunny	75 63 °F	
Paris	Rain	68 53 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	82 59 °F	
Rome	Mostly cloudy	80 63 °F	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	75 52 °F	
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	60 51 °F	
Seoul	Cloudy	76 57 °F	
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	80 61 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly cloudy	70 53 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:25 AM	Low Tide	1.28	
8:03 AM	High Tide	1.81	
3:24 PM	Low Tide	-0.03	
10:37 PM	High Tide	1.88	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021			
DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,
ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION FUND

CNMI SBDC ready to assist CNMI restaurants

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund was established by the American Rescue Plan Act to provide funds to restaurants and other eligible businesses to help them stay on business, possibly re-hire furloughed employees, and reimburse expenses incurred for the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 at their place of business. In the CNMI, the Small Business Development Center is helping facilitate application and release of funds.

The program aims to provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location. The minimum award is \$1,000 and since RRF is not a loan, recipients are not required to repay the funding as long as funds are used for eligible uses no later than March 11, 2023.

"The Restaurant Revitalization Fund was authorized under the ARPA funding. This will help to provide grant funding to eligible small businesses that are in the restaurant industry... We do recommend

everyone to come in to consult, ask, inquire and apply for this funding... approval is a case by case basis so we do recommend everyone to come in with their 2019 and 2020 tax forms as well as ownership documents," CNMI SBDC direct Nicole Babauta said.

"With how much a restaurant business will get really depends on what year the restaurant opened if a restaurant opened before Jan. 1 of 2019, the

amount that they would receive in a grant is the loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic," she added.

RRF-eligible companies are businesses that are not permanently closed and its primary business purpose is to serve food or drink. Restaurants, food stands, food trucks, food carts, caterers, bars, saloons, lounges, taverns, snack and non-alcoholic beverage bars. Bakeries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts), brewpubs, tasting rooms, taprooms (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts), breweries and/or

microbreweries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts), wineries and distilleries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts), inns (onsite sales of food and beverage to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts), and licensed facilities or premises of a beverage alcohol producer where the public may taste, sample, or purchase products

As for computation, Babauta said that there are a couple of ways to on how to compute the possible funding that an establishment will get. "They would just take their 2020 revenue minus their 2019 revenue, and that amount is what is the grant is going to be for now for restaurants that started in 2019. They can either use that calculation or there's another calculation where they take how much they've spent on the business, minus their revenue, and then that is the difference."

"Now it is important to know that revenue does not include the Paycheck Protection Program in that calculation.



Babauta

So if a restaurant received the first or second draw of the PPP, that does go into their final calculation on how much they'd actually received. Then the final calculation is if a business started in 2020, they would subtract the amount that they've spent on eligible business expenses which there's a long list of what's eligible from the revenue they received at that time and then that's the amount that the grant

will be for including if they received the PPP," she added.

RRF can be used first in business expenses such as payroll costs (including sick leave), business utility payments, maintenance expenses, business supplies, (including protective equipment and cleaning materials), and business food and beverage expenses (including raw materials). Covered supplier cost and business operating

expenses such as insurance, marketing fees, licenses, legal, POS equipment etc. Second, construction expenses such as construction for outdoor seating but expansion costs are ineligible. Lastly, payment of business debts-mortgage obligation both principal and interest (does not include any prepayment or principal interest) and business debt service.

For more information, contact CNMI Small Business Development Center director Nicole Babauta or Maxine Laszlo at (670) 234-5498 ext. 6888.

Biden courts Hill leaders, but GOP won't budge on big deal



AP

Members of the media are escorted out as President Joe Biden meets with congressional leaders in the Oval Office of the White House, Wednesday, May 12, 2021, in Washington. Clockwise from left, Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Calif.

Biden signs order to beef up federal cyber defenses

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)— President Joe Biden signed an executive order Wednesday meant to strengthen U.S. cybersecurity defenses in response to a series of headline-grabbing hacking incidents that highlight how vulnerable the country's public and private sectors are to high-tech spies and criminals operating from half a world away.

The order will require all federal agencies to use basic cybersecurity measures, like multi-factor authentication, and require new security standards for software makers that contract with the federal government.

Officials are hoping to leverage the federal government's massive spending power to make widely used software safer for the private sector as well.

"The federal government

needs to make bold changes and significant investments in order to defend the vital institutions that underpin the American way of life," Biden said in his executive order.

His actions come as the administration has been grappling with its response to a massive breach by Russia of federal agencies and ransomware attacks on private corporations.

Biden's executive order was announced shortly after the nation's largest fuel pipeline restarted operations Wednesday, days after it was forced to shut down by a gang of hackers. The disruption of Colonial Pipeline caused long lines at gas stations in the Southeast.

And the U.S. sanctioned the Kremlin last month for a hack of several federal government agencies, known

as the SolarWinds breach, that officials have linked to a Russian intelligence unit and characterized as an intelligence-gathering operation. The AP previously reported that Russian hackers gained access to an email account belonging to the Trump administration's acting homeland security secretary, Chad Wolf.

"The United States is simply not prepared to fend off state-sponsored or even criminal hackers intent on compromising our systems for profit or espionage," Sen. Mark Warner, the Virginia Democrat who leads the Senate Intelligence Committee, said in a statement.

Warner praised the executive order but said Congress needs to do more to address the country's vulnerabilities in cyberspace.

WASHINGTON (AP)— Despite sharing pleasantries at the White House, Republican congressional leaders signaled no willingness Wednesday to embrace President Joe Biden's ideas for a massive infrastructure investment, insisting instead on a much smaller package and rejecting the idea of raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy to pay for it.

Biden hosted the top four congressional leaders for the first time and said in the Oval Office session that he was willing to compromise on his \$4 trillion jobs and families proposals. After nearly two hours, both sides agreed on the need for public works spending, and they emerged pledging to work together—as much as they can.

But the stark resistance from Republicans to the size and scope of the package, and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell's "red line" against corporate and upper-income tax increases, leaves Democrats in the familiar position of embarking on potentially drawn-out negotiations that may, or may not, produce a bipartisan deal.

"Let's see if we can get an agreement to kick-start this, and then fight over what's left," Biden said later on MSNBC.

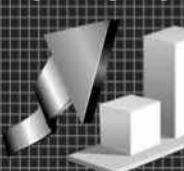
The gathering brought together Biden's top Democratic allies—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York—as well as McConnell and House Republican leader Kevin Mc-

Carthy of California. Vice President Kamala Harris sat next to Biden.

While it was the first such meeting of Biden's presidency, the setting was a familiar White House scene of powerful party leaders, who can make or break an administration's legislative agenda, formally arrayed around the president. The mood overall was described as not antagonistic, according to a person familiar with the private meeting who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss it. The last such encounter ended with Pelosi standing to confront then-President Donald Trump.

Schumer told reporters back on Capitol Hill that it was a "good meeting" and that the two sides would "try hard" to work together.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

S&P

4,064.75
+6.00
+0.15%

DOW

33,522.00
+14.00
+0.04%

NASDAQ

13,031.50
+33.00
+0.25%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.28594
British Pound	0.70905
Canadian Dollar	1.21046
Chinese Yuan	6.455
Euro	0.82597

Hong Kong Dollar	7.76635
Indian Rupee	73.6297
Japanese Yen	109.705
Malaysian Ringgit	4.08
New Zealand Dollar	1.40
Philippine Peso	47.11

Russian Ruble	73.68
Singapore Dollar	1.33
South Korean Won	1,110.51
Swiss Franc	0.91
Taiwan Dollar	27.55
Thailand Baht	31.3250

Nation

US advisers endorse Pfizer COVID shot for kids 12 and up

U.S. health advisers endorsed use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine in kids as young as 12 on Wednesday—just as planned new guidelines say it's OK for people of any age to get a coronavirus shot at the same time as other needed vaccinations.

The shots will let kids safely attend camps this summer and help assure a more normal return to classrooms next school year, concluded advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"And this is another way to get closer to ending this horrible pandemic," said adviser Dr. Camille Kotton of Harvard Medical School.

The sprint to vaccinate millions of middle and high school students has already started in parts of the country, as a long line of kids rolled up their sleeves in suburban Atlanta for a first dose Wednesday.

"It just felt like a flu shot, honestly," said Meredith Rogers, 14, from Decatur, Georgia, after getting her vaccination.

Michelle Rogers, Meredith's mother, said she hoped the youth vaccinations would help bring some normalcy back.

"A little apprehensive, but you know what? This is a step towards getting life back to normal so, we're all in," Michelle Rogers said with a slight fist pump.

Pfizer's vaccine has been used for months in people 16 and older, and earlier this week the Food and Drug Ad-



AP
Gabrielle Turner, 14, receives a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination from Registered Nurse Lisa Leventhal at a Montgomery County, Pa. Office of Public Health vaccination clinic at the King of Prussia Mall, Wednesday, May 12, 2021, in King of Prussia, Pa.

ministration cleared its use for those as young as age 12. But before rolling it out to the younger kids, much of the nation was awaiting recommendations from CDC's advisers—and the panel concluded the same dose adults use is safe and strongly protective in those 12 to 15 years old, too.

The CDC rapidly accepted its advisers' recommendation.

A key question: Is it OK to get vaccinated against COVID-19 at the same doctor's visit as people receive some routine vaccinations? That's an urgent back-to-school concern especially for the

12- to 15-year-olds, who have missed out on regularly scheduled vaccines during the pandemic—but it's an issue for adults, too.

The CDC until now has recommended not getting other vaccinations within two weeks of a COVID-19 shot, mostly as a precaution so that safety monitors could spot if any unexpected side effects cropped up.

But the CDC said Wednesday it is changing that advice because the COVID-19 vaccines have proved very safe—and that health workers can decide to give another needed

vaccine at the same time for people of any age.

"The need for catch-up vaccination in coordination with COVID-19 vaccination is urgent as we plan for safe return to school," CDC's Dr. Kate Woodworth told the panel, citing millions of missed doses of vaccines against tetanus, whooping cough and other health threats.

The American Academy of Pediatrics on Wednesday also urged that kids 12 and older get the Pfizer vaccine—and agreed that it's fine to give more than one vaccine at the same time, especially for kids

who are behind on their regular vaccinations.

Children are far less likely than adults to get seriously ill from COVID-19 -- but they do

sometimes die, and thousands have been hospitalized. By last month, those ages 12 to 17 were making up slightly more of the nation's new coronavirus infections than adults over 65, a group that's now largely vaccinated.

The two-dose vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech was studied in more than 2,000 kids ages 12 to 15. There were no cases of COVID-19 among vaccinated kids compared with 16 in the group given dummy shots. Kids also developed higher levels of virus-fighting antibodies than vaccinated adults.

Side effects are the same as adults experience, mostly sore arms and flu-like fever, chills or aches that signal the immune system is revving up.

GOP dumps defiant Trump critic Cheney from top House post

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans dumped GOP Rep. Liz Cheney from her House leadership post Wednesday for her persistent repudiation of Donald Trump's election falsehoods, underscoring the hold the defeated and twice-impeached former president retains on his party.

She defiantly insisted she'll keep trying to wrench the party away from him and his "destructive lies."

Meeting behind closed doors, GOP lawmakers needed less than 20 minutes and a voice vote to oust the Wyoming congresswoman from her job as their No. 3 House leader. The banishment, urged by Trump and other top Republicans, showed his ability to upend the careers of antagonists, even those from GOP royalty.

Cheney, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, has repeatedly rebuked Trump for his oft-repeated falsehood that his 2020 reelection was fraudulently stolen from him and for his encouragement of supporters who assaulted the Capitol on Jan. 6. On Wednesday she unrepentantly lashed out anew.

"If you want leaders who

will enable and spread his destructive lies, I'm not your person," she told her colleagues before the vote, according to a person who provided her remarks on condition of anonymity. "You have plenty of others to choose from. That will be their legacy."

Just minutes after she accused her fellow Republicans of dishonestly buttressing Trump, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., told reporters at the White House, "I don't think anybody is questioning the legitimacy of the presidential election. I think that is all over with."

McCarthy spoke a week after Trump released a statement saying, "The Fraudulent Presidential Election of 2020 will be, from this day forth, known as THE BIG LIE!"

Cheney's critics say her offense wasn't her view of Trump but her persistence in publicly expressing it, undermining the unity they want party leaders to display in advance of next year's elections, when they hope to win House control. Several also say GOP voters' allegiance to Trump means the party's electoral prospects without him would be dismal.

Schools ditch student mask requirements in growing numbers

As a lengthy, bitter fight over mask requirements for students neared its conclusion, the chairperson of a Florida school board announced that she would agree to lift a mandate that had been in place since September even though she preferred leaving it in place until the end of the academic year. Parents hurled insults in response.

"Communist! Democrat!," opponents of making children wear masks in school shouted as board chair Wei Ueber-schaer and the district superintendent explained at a May 3 meeting that they still considered masks advisable. "This is Santa Rosa County, America, not China!"

Moments later, the Santa Rosa school board voted unanimously to make masks optional for all grades effective immediately, joining dozens of other U.S. communities in declaring that masks were or would soon no longer be

mandatory for students.

The debates have been emotional and highly divisive around the country, in some cases leading to the involvement of police. A few beleaguered school boards, caught between the demands of anti-mask parents and the appeals of employee unions, eliminated student mask rules only to reverse or revise the decisions. Where many see a continued need to protect children who aren't vaccinated against COVID-19, opponents argue that masks make students uncomfortable and mandates impinge on freedom.

"The mask is a personal choice, and I wore it at the beginning, but I just decided that it wasn't about the mask anymore," said Cynthia Licharowicz, a Milton, Florida, parent who opposed Santa Rosa County's rule. "So I decided to take it off, and I wanted my child to have the same choice."

The dustups highlight competing risk narratives 14 months into the pandemic: Even as a number of U.S. schools remain closed to minimize infections, districts in states from Alabama to Wyoming decided to ditch student mask mandates. Many more are likely to do the same before the next school year starts, despite the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance that schools "should prioritize universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing."

Some public health experts are alarmed. While the Food and Drug Administration this week approved Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children as young as 12, it's unlikely that many young adolescents will be vaccinated before the end of the academic year. Data from the CDC shows infection rates among U.S. residents ages 14-17 are now higher than for all Americans, while

the rates among children 6-13 are getting closer to the national average.

"We know that masks work to reduce transmission," Gigi Gronvall, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said. "This is really not the time to remove one of the best tools we have to reduce transmission."

In Arkansas, a law will make it illegal by the end of the summer for schools or any government entity to require masks. On Wednesday in South Carolina, schools Superintendent Molly Spearman dropped a statewide student mask mandate but said Gov. Henry McMaster had no legal basis for an order letting parents choose for their children whether or not to wear masks. Spearman said districts could continue to apply their own mask rules.

Many parents in school districts where masks have become voluntary are concerned. (AP)

Asia

16 new cases cause worry in Taiwan, Tsai says don't panic

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president on Wednesday sought to reassure the public that the government is capable of withstanding a further outbreak of COVID-19 after 16 local cases were detected.

The exact origins of the cases have not yet been discovered.

"The challenge at this moment is still severe. Please be alert and follow the guidelines," President Tsai Yin-wen said in televised remarks. She called on people not to panic.

Tsai said medical supplies were sufficient and vaccines would continue to be distributed.

Taiwan had virtually eradicated domestic transmission of the coronavirus through strict mask wearing, case tracing, travel restrictions and quarantine measures. It has counted 1,210 confirmed cases to date, with the vast majority imported.

Announcing the increase in cases at the Legislature on Wednesday afternoon, Health

and Welfare Minister Chen Shih-chung said the latest outbreak was "not a joke."

The island on Tuesday raised its emergency preparedness, banning indoor events with more than 100 people and outdoor events with more than

500 until early June. Stricter measures could be imposed if cases continued to rise and outlets found in violation would be fined, Chen said.

Five of the cases were discovered in a gaming cafe in Yilan county on Taiwan's

eastern coast. Another was found in New Taipei City, just outside the capital. None of the cases had any history of international travel. Health authorities are doing contact tracing to determine the source of the infection.

A seventh infected person was already in quarantine and had been in contact with a cluster discovered in recent weeks linked to pilots working for Taiwan's China Airlines. Over 30 cases have been identified.

Australian court upholds laws against foreign interference

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A Chinese-born political adviser on Wednesday lost his challenge in Australia's highest court against laws banning covert foreign interference in domestic politics.

John Shi Sheng Zhang also lost his High Court challenge in a unanimous decision of seven judges to the validity of search warrants executed by police at his Sydney home and offices last year as part of an investigation into illegal foreign interference on behalf of China.

Zhang was an adviser to New South Wales state lawmaker Shaoquett Moselmann, whose membership in the opposition Labor Party was suspended after he was also the target of police raids.

The raids in June 2020 were the first police investigation to grab public attention since the foreign interference laws came into force in 2018 and the government bolstered funding to security agencies in late 2019 to enforce them.

Chen Hong, director of East China Normal University's Australian Studies Center, wrote in the *Global Times*, a Chinese Communist Party English-language, after the raids that Moselmann "unfortunately fell prey to the anti-China hysteria in Australia."

Zhang, a 63-year-old Australian citizen who immigrated from China in 1989, had asked the High Court to rule the foreign interference laws were invalid because they infringed on his freedom of political communication implied in the Australian Constitution.

He had also asked the court to quash the search warrants and to order that evidence seized or copied by police be returned or destroyed.

His case argued the foreign interference law was invalid and that the warrant did not precisely identify the substance of the offenses.

Police seized phones, computers and other electronic devices from Zhang. The warrants allege that Zhang engaged with Moselmann "through a private social media chat group and other fora ... to advance the interests and policy goals of a foreign principal," the Chinese government.

Part of the conduct was "covert" because it involved communications over an encrypted private social media chat group, the warrants said.

Lawyers for Attorney General Michaelia Cash had argued in court that "covert" could be read as "involving some element of nefarious concealment or secrecy."

The law made it illegal to engage in conduct on behalf of "a foreign principal" in circumstances where the accused person is "reckless" as to whether the conduct will influence political or governmental process or democracy in Australia and if any part of the conduct is covert.

The offense carries a potential maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

The court upheld the charge and rejected Zhang's argument that the warrants were invalid because the foreign principal's identity was unclear.

Cash said her government had never been more determined to keep Australians free and safe from foreign interference.

"The government takes the threat of foreign interference very seriously and welcomes the High Court's judgment," she said.

"We will continue to take strong action to deter acts of foreign interference as the threat evolves, defend against them when they occur, and uphold our laws," she added.

Australian Federal Police said its investigation was continuing.

Zhang's lawyers did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Monks and nuns pray together during Buddha's Birthday celebrations at the Lin Chi Temple in Taipei, Taiwan, Sunday, May 9, 2021. AP

Drop in Xinjiang birthrate largest in recent history: report

BEIJING (AP)—Xinjiang in far western China had the sharpest known decline in birthrates between 2017 and 2019 of any territory in recent history, according to a new analysis by an Australian think tank.

The report from the Australian Strategy Policy Institute, obtained exclusively ahead of publication by The Associated Press, showed the 48.74% decline was concentrated in areas with many Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other largely Muslim ethnic minorities, based on Chinese government statistics over nearly a decade.

Birthrates in largely minority counties fell 43.7% between 2017 and 2018 alone, with over 160,000 fewer babies born. That compares to a slight increase in births in counties populated mostly by China's Han majority.

Such an extreme drop in birthrates is unprecedented in the 71 years since the United Nations began collecting global fertility statistics, beating out even declines during the Syrian civil war and the genocides in Rwanda and Cambodia, said Nathan Ruser, an ASPI researcher and co-author of the report.

"As far as it's possible to find out, it is by far the largest

drop there is," Ruser said. "It makes you realize the scale of these family planning policies and the scale of this crackdown, the scale of societal control that authorities are looking for."

The ASPI report corroborates an AP story and a report by German researcher Adrian Zenz last year that found the Chinese government was systemically slashing Uyghur birthrates with sterilizations, abortions and intrauterine devices, and fining and detaining people with three or more children.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry and the Xinjiang government did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but Zenz and ASPI have come under increasing attack from Beijing. The AP confirmed many of the figures were based on Chinese government statistics.

Over the past four years, the Chinese authorities have carried out a brutal campaign of forced assimilation targeting the Uyghurs, an ethnic Turkic minority native to Xinjiang. Officials cracked down after a series of bombings and knife attacks by separatist Uyghurs, sweeping a million or more people into a network

of newly built camps and prisons. The crackdown has triggered sanctions from the West, and on Wednesday a group of Western countries are slated to hold a U.N. event on China's repression of the Uyghurs.

Eysa Imin, a Uyghur from Korla in the center of Xinjiang, recalled eight people in his neighborhood detained for having too many children. When he himself was thrown in a detention center in 2017, he ended up sharing a cell with an old schoolmate who had been arrested, tortured, and interrogated for having four children.

"When they arrested him, they said it was a sign of extremism," Imin said. "The government started connecting having many children with Islamic extremism. ... It feels like they want to eliminate us."

Experts note that the tightening birth control measures must be understood in the broader context of fear that's pervasive among Xinjiang's minorities.

"Just for self-survival, you're going to be publicly compliant, for fear that you or your family might be detained," said Timothy Grose, a professor specializing in Xinjiang at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana.

"Any sign of resistance could get you sent to reeducation."

For decades, China had one of the most extensive systems of minority preferential treatment in the world, including hiring quotas and extra points on college entrance exams. The government also allowed ethnic minorities two or three children, even as it restricted its Han majority to just one child.

Such benefits have been rolled back and even reversed under President Xi Jinping, China's most authoritarian leader in decades. State-backed scholars began calling on the government to crack down on large religious minority families, calling them breeding grounds for terrorism and extremism. In April 2017, Xinjiang's top official called for the "effective containment of illegal births" specifically in southern Xinjiang, where most Uyghurs live.

In the eyes of Chinese officials, the current measures taken are simply "correcting" lax birth controls for minorities. The government has repeatedly said that abortions, sterilizations and IUD insertions in Xinjiang are voluntary, and on paper, both Han Chinese and Uyghurs can have two children.

World

Israel steps up Gaza offensive, kills senior Hamas figures

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel on Wednesday pressed ahead with a fierce military offensive in the Gaza Strip, killing as many as 10 senior Hamas military figures and toppling a pair of high-rise towers housing Hamas facilities in a series of airstrikes. The Islamic militant group showed no signs of backing down and fired hundreds of rockets at Israeli cities.

In just three days, this latest round of fighting between the bitter enemies has already begun to resemble—and even exceed—a devastating 50-day war in 2014. Like that previ-

ous war, neither side appears to have an exit strategy.

But there are key differences. The fighting has triggered the worst Jewish-Arab violence inside Israel in decades. And looming in the background is an international war crimes investigation.

Israel carried out an intense barrage of airstrikes just after sunrise, striking dozens of targets in several minutes that set off bone-rattling explosions across Gaza. Airstrikes continued throughout the day, filling the sky with pillars of smoke.

At nightfall, the streets of Gaza City resembled a ghost

town as people huddled indoors on the final night of Ramadan. The evening, followed by the Eid al-Fitr holiday, is usually a time of vibrant night life, shopping and crowded restaurants.

“There is nowhere to run. There is nowhere to hide,” said Zeyad Khattab, a 44-year-old pharmacist who fled with a dozen other relatives to a family home in central Gaza after bombs pounded his apartment building in Gaza City. “That terror is impossible to describe.”

Gaza militants continued to bombard Israel with nonstop

rocket fire throughout the day and into early Thursday. The attacks brought life to a standstill in southern communities near Gaza, but also reached as far north as the Tel Aviv area, about 70 kilometers (45 miles) to the north, for a second straight day.

The military said sirens also wailed in northern Israel’s Migdal Ha’Emek area, the farthest the effects of Gaza rockets have reached since 2014.

“We’re coping, sitting at home, hoping it will be OK,” said Motti Haim, a resident of the central town of Beer Yaakov and father of two children.

“It’s not simple running to the shelter. It’s not easy with the kids.”

Gaza’s Health Ministry said the death toll rose to 67 Palestinians, including 16 children and five women. Islamic Jihad confirmed the deaths of seven militants, while Hamas acknowledged that a top commander and several other members were killed.

A total of seven people have been killed in Israel, including four people who died on Wednesday. Among them were a soldier killed by an anti-tank missile and a 6-year-old child hit in a rocket attack.

The Israeli military claims the number of militants killed so far is much higher than Hamas has acknowledged.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, said at least 14 militants were killed Wednesday—including 10 members of the “top management of Hamas” and four weapons experts. Altogether, he claimed some 30 militants

have been killed since the fighting began.

More raids conducted early Thursday were aimed at several “strategically significant” facilities for Hamas, including a bank and a compound for a naval squad, the military said.

While United Nations and Egyptian officials have said that cease-fire efforts are underway, there were no signs of progress. Israeli television’s Channel 12 reported late Wednesday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Security Cabinet authorized a widening of the offensive.

U.N. chief Antonio Guterres condemned the “indiscriminate launching of rockets” from civilian areas in Gaza toward Israeli population centers, but he also urged Israel to show “maximum restraint.” U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken called Netanyahu to support Israel’s right to defend itself and said he was sending a senior diplomat to the region to try to calm tensions.



AP
An Israeli artillery unit fires toward targets in Gaza Strip, at the Israeli Gaza border, Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

UN Security Council urges immediate cease-fire in Yemen

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council called for an immediate halt to fighting in Yemen on Wednesday, saying that only a lasting cease-fire and political settlement can end the six-year conflict in the Arab world’s poorest nation and the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

In calling for a cessation of hostilities, the council singled out the military escalation by Iranian-backed Shiite Houthi rebels in the oil-rich central province of Marib, the internationally recognized government’s last stronghold in Yemen’s northern half. The offensive has put at risk an estimated 1 million civilians who have fled there since 2015 to escape fighting elsewhere.

The council’s press statement followed a briefing by U.N. special envoy Martin Griffiths, who said he couldn’t emphasize enough that the

more than yearlong Houthi offensive “has caused an astonishing loss of life, including children who have been mercilessly thrown into the battle.”

Displaced people in Marib are living in fear for their lives, he said, “and the offensive has been until now constantly disrupting peace efforts.”

In 2014, the Houthis overran the capital, Sanaa, and much of Yemen’s north, driving the government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi into exile. A U.S.-backed, Saudi-led coalition intervened the following year against the Houthis seeking to restore Hadi’s rule.

The intensified fighting in Marib has come amid an international and regional diplomatic push to end the conflict.

“The longer the Marib offensive goes on, the greater the risk to Yemen’s broader

stability and social cohesion,” Griffiths warned. “It may lead to the transfer of conflict to other areas in Yemen, including those which have remained mercifully far from the main theaters of conflict. Yemen is an unstable country, easily destabilized.”

Griffiths expressed fear the Marib offensive may suggest to some that the war can be won militarily, but he said military conquest will only fuel further cycles of violence and unrest. He said Yemen can only be governed effectively by an “inclusive partnership” of “different political forces and components.”

U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock told the council that about 25,000 people have fled the fighting in Marib, many for the second or third time. If the fighting doesn’t stop, he said, “aid agencies fear up to 385,000

people could be displaced in the coming months.”

Lowcock warned that “famine is still stalking the country, with five million people just a step away from starving,” and COVID-19 cases are still surging, “pushing the health care system to collapse.” Famine, disease and other miseries are the result of the war and that is why “it is so important to stop the fighting,” he said.

Since March 2020, Griffiths has been trying to get the Houthis and the government to commit to a nationwide cease-fire, to reopen Sanaa airport to commercial traffic, ensure an uninterrupted flow of fuel and commodities through the main port of Hodeida, and to resume a political process aimed at reaching a political settlement.

“I am here to say that a deal is still very much possible,” Griffiths told the council.

Sao Paulo authorities plead with China to release vaccines

SAO PAULO (AP)—Authorities in Brazil’s most populous state on Wednesday said they have mobilized to try to convince the Chinese government to authorize the export of raw material to make millions of COVID-19 vaccines needed amid a sudden shortage.

The South American nation is highly dependent on a shot made by pharmaceutical company Sinovac for its immunization efforts, and in recent weeks several Brazilian cities have either suspended or delayed vaccinations due to faltering supplies.

The factory that produces the vaccine locally, at Sao Paulo’s state-run Butantan Institute, has slowed production due to lack of raw material, and Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro and his economy minister, Paulo Guedes, made statements critical of China this month. Sao Paulo’s Gov. João Doria—an adversary of Bolsonaro’s—implied their comments may have created the bottleneck.

Hours after speaking to China’s ambassador to Brazil, Doria said in a press conference that Bolsonaro and Guedes should apologize to the Asian nation for their recent comments so China can resume exports.

“He (Chinese ambassador Yang Wanming) told me he

will talk to China’s ministry of foreign affairs tomorrow to renew his appeal to release the raw material that is ready at the Sinovac laboratory,” Doria said. “That raw material is ready and available in refrigerated containers, just waiting for the authorization of the Chinese government.”

Doria added there was risk of a halt in immunization efforts if about 10,000 liters of raw material stuck in China—enough to bottle 18 million shots—doesn’t arrive soon.

The Chinese embassy in the capital Brasilia, when contacted by the AP, didn’t confirm the call with Gov. Doria took place.

Dimas Covas, the head of the Butantan Institute, also said on Wednesday he had called Brazil’s ambassador to China, Paulo Mesquita, to ask him to step up the pressure on Beijing. He added that a representative of Sao Paulo’s state government who had been based in Shanghai moved to the Chinese capital one week ago to bolster their efforts.

Bolsonaro suggested on May 5 that China had benefited economically during the pandemic and echoed a conspiracy theory that the disease may have been created in a laboratory, without providing evidence.

Off The Wall

Cowabunga! More than 800 turtles rescued from storm drains

They're lean, they're mean and they're green. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles? Not exactly, but hundreds of diamondback terrapin hatchlings have been rescued from subterranean storm drains along the Jersey Shore.

According to a Stockton University Facebook post, the turtles were hiding from the

cold temperatures over the winter and surviving off yolk sacks in drains in Margate, Ventnor and Ocean City.

Volunteers who rescued 826 of the animals turned them over to Stockton University's "Head Start" program, where staff will care for and rehabilitate the creatures for about a



(LESTER BLOCK/STOCKTON UNIVERSITY VIA AP)

This photo, provided by Stockton University, shows some of the hundreds of diamondback terrapin hatchlings rescued from storm drains by volunteers in Ocean City, NJ.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Vulture invasion besets residents of Florida neighborhood

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Residents of a Florida neighborhood say they are beset by an invasion of turkey vultures that are damaging homes and causing major messes. Resident Judy Oliveri told WF-LA-TV that her neighborhood in the Tampa suburb of Westchase is overrun with the large black birds, and they've been multiplying since they showed up three years ago. "We could have 20 to 25 vultures on our roofs. They land on our screens, their underfeathers are all over the roof, their droppings are all over the place," Oliveri said. Other homeowners say it's possible the vultures were dislocated from their previous habitat by ongoing development in the area. Residents say the U.S. Department of Agriculture has promised to remove the vultures, but no timetable has been set. "They are destroying our neighborhood and our property values. I would like them gone," Oliveri said. Vultures are state and federally protected as a migratory bird. That means it is illegal to harm or kill them without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Police: 11-year-old robbery suspect was driving stolen car

SAN LEANDRO, Calif. (AP)—An 11-year-old and a 17-year-old were arrested Wednesday on suspicion of robbing an 80-year-old California man, and police said the 11-year-old was driving a stolen car. The robbery victim, an Asian man, was walking in a residential area of San Leandro when he was attacked and robbed by the two juveniles, KRON-TV reported. Police tracked down the suspects and said the 11-year-old was behind the wheel of a vehicle stolen during a carjacking in Oakland on Monday. "We are thankful that we were able to capture these juveniles safely and expeditiously," police Lieutenant Ali Khan said. Detectives are investigating

whether the suspects committed any other crimes in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Police: Woman posed as student to promote Instagram page

MIAMI (AP)—A 28-year-old woman who wanted to promote her Instagram page attempted to blend in with students at a Miami-area high school, police said. Monday's stunt at American Senior High School landed Audrey Francisquini in jail, where she's facing charges of burglary, interfering with a school function and resisting arrest without violence, records show. Francisquini started handing out pamphlets printed with her Instagram account after sneaking onto the campus around 8:30 a.m. Monday, police said. She had a black backpack and carried a skateboard as she walked through the hallways, recording herself. School security tracked her down as she was wandering the hallways while students were in classrooms, an arrest report said. Francisquini told investigators she was looking for the registration office. Investigators said she headed toward the registration office, but did not enter. Instead she continued walking through the hallways, talking to students, news outlets reported. Security officers tried to catch up with her again, but she didn't stop. They notified the office of a security threat on campus, police said. An officer spotted her walking across the faculty parking lot and told her to stop. She continued walking, the report said. Authorities tracked her down through her Instagram page and arrested her later Monday at her home in North North Miami Beach. The school system will be conducting a thorough review of the incident, Miami-Dade County Public Schools spokesperson Jaquelyn Calzadilla told the Miami Herald. They will be looking into how she was able to sneak into the school and elude security several times. Records did not list a lawyer for Francisquini.

South Dakota pitcher's prosthetic arm found at recycler

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—A college baseball player from South Dakota whose prosthetic arm was stolen from his vehicle got it back Tuesday after it was found at a recycling plant.

Augustana's Parker Hanson, a right-handed pitcher, was born without a left hand, but found a way to adapt at a young age so he could play his favorite game all the way up through the college level. His prosthetic arm and its attachments were in a backpack that was stolen from his unlocked pickup truck outside his home.

Hanson got a text Tuesday saying that his prosthetic had been recovered at Millennium Recycling Inc. in Sioux Falls, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported. A worker at the plant found it among other items in the recycling facility and picked it out.

"The manager walked in and it was sitting on her desk," Hanson said.

The prosthetic was "pretty banged up" and Hanson said it was no longer usable. He was fundraising both for a new prosthetic and



(ALFONZO GALVAN/THE ARGUS LEADER VIA AP)

Nate Riddle and Tim Kachel stand at the recycling plant where they found Parker Hanson's prosthetic arm on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, in Sioux Falls, S.D. Hanson, a college baseball player from South Dakota, prosthetic arm was stolen from his vehicle when discovered his backpack missing on May 3 and took to social media to vent his frustrations. The next day the Sioux Falls Police Department recovered a backpack with some of the prosthetic's attachments near Hanson's house.

to raise money for charity when he got another piece of good news Tuesday: A Minneapolis-area hospital specializing in pediatric orthopedics was giving him a free replacement.

Hanson discovered his backpack missing on May 3 and took to social media to vent his frustrations. The next day, the Sioux Falls Police Department recovered a backpack with

some of the prosthetic's attachments near Hanson's house. At the same time, Hanson's story became widely shared and people started fundraising for a replacement limb.

Nate Riddle and Tim Kachel were the workers who found Hanson's prosthetic Monday night while working a shift picking out nonrecyclable items from the line.

They said they've seen just

about everything mixed in with recyclables, but when Riddle picked out the prosthetic arm, he almost threw it away. Before he got the chance, Kachel stopped him.

"I recognized it instantly," Kachel said, "I was jumping up and down screaming 'Stop!'"

Kachel keeps up with news and remembered hearing Hanson's story. He said he knew what the arm was as soon as he spotted it.

"I had no idea what was going on since he (Kachel) was freaking out, so I throw it over and he gives me the background," Riddle said.

Riddle was skeptical about Kachel's claims but let him turn the arm in to the front office. Then, on Tuesday morning, the pair's line was paused and everybody was asked to go to the office. There they met Hanson for the first time.

"You never know what you're going to see coming through this line," Kachel said. "He (Hanson) was so relieved and excited, he was shaking."

Hanson learned later Tuesday that he will receive a new prosthetic for free.

Bear has close call on utility poles in Arizona border city

DOUGLAS, Ariz. (AP)—Residents of an Arizona border city were left in disbelief by a surprise visit from a bear.

The Arizona Game & Fish Department said the bear appeared Sunday in downtown Douglas.

Bolder than your average bear, the animal climbed up two utility poles and even sat on the wires at one point.

State wildlife officials, Douglas police, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Border Patrol closed off U.S. Hwy 191 and tried to get the bear to leave.

Authorities say the seem-



(BRUCE WHETTEN/SIERRA VISTA HERALD VIA AP)

A bear is perched at the top of a utility pole Sunday, May 9, 2021, in Douglas, Ariz. Authorities say the bear eventually climbed down and scampered off, sending about two dozen onlookers scattering.

ingly unfazed bear eventually climbed down and scampered off, sending about two dozen onlookers scattering.

No injuries were reported.

Game & Fish officials say this is the time of year where people in the area need to watch out for bears.

Science & Technology

NASA spacecraft begins 2-year trip home with asteroid rubble

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—With rubble from an asteroid tucked inside, a NASA spacecraft fired its engines and began the long journey back to Earth on Monday, leaving the ancient space rock in its rearview mirror.

The trip home for the robotic prospector, Osiris-Rex, will take two years.

Osiris-Rex reached asteroid Bennu in 2018 and spent two years flying near and around it, before collecting rubble from the surface last fall.

The University of Arizona's Dante Lauretta, the principal scientist, estimates the spacecraft holds between a half pound and 1 pound (200 grams and 400 grams) of mostly bite-size chunks. Either way, it easily exceeds the target of at least 2 ounces (60 grams).

It will be the biggest cosmic haul for the U.S. since the Apollo moon rocks. While NASA has returned comet dust and solar wind samples, this is the first time it's gone

after pieces of an asteroid. Japan has accomplished it twice, but in tiny amounts.

Scientists described Monday's departure from Bennu's neighborhood as bittersweet.

"I've been working on getting a sample back from an asteroid since my daughter was in diapers and now she's graduating from high school, so it's been a long journey," said NASA project scientist Jason Dworkin.

Added Lauretta: "We have gotten used to being at Bennu

and seeing new and exciting images and data coming back to us here on Earth."

Osiris-Rex was already nearly 200 miles (300 kilometers) from the solar-orbiting Bennu when it fired its main engines Monday afternoon for

a fast, clean get-away.

Colorado-based flight controllers for spacecraft builder Lockheed Martin applauded when confirmation arrived of the spacecraft's departure: "We're bringing the samples home!"

Scientists hope to uncover some of the solar system's secrets from the samples vacuumed last October from Bennu's dark, rough, carbon-rich surface. The asteroid is an estimated 1,600 feet (490 meters) wide and 4.5 billion years old.

World Food Prize goes to nutrition expert for fish research

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A nutrition expert who pioneered innovative ways of raising fish rich in micronutrients and fatty acids and incorporating them into diets in developing countries was named the recipient of the World Food Prize on Tuesday.

Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, 71, who grew up on Caribbean island of Trinidad and later became a citizen of Denmark, was awarded the prize in recognition of her achievements in pioneering fish-based food systems to improve nutrition, health and livelihoods for millions

around the world.

"Dr. Thilsted figured out how these nutrient-rich small fish can be raised locally and inexpensively," said U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in remarks recorded and delivered at the announcement ceremony. "Now, millions of low-income families across many countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Burma, Zambia, Malawi, are eating small fish regularly, dried and fresh, in everything from chutneys to porridge, giving kids and breastfeeding mothers key nutrients that will protect chil-

dren for a lifetime. That is all thanks to her."

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and UN Nutrition Chair Naoko Yamamoto also delivered remarks. World Food Prize Foundation President Barbara Stinson announced Thilsted as the winner.

The World Food Prize was created by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug in 1986 to recognize scientists and others who have improved the quality and availability of food. The foundation that awards the \$250,000 prize is based in Des Moines, Iowa.

Viewing photos that are stored in outdated digital formats

Q: I found an old floppy disk with pictures of my grandfather. But the picture files have the suffix ".max" and I don't have the right computer software to open them. What can I do?

A: Photo files with the ".max" suffix were scanned from printed pictures by a program called ScanSoft PaperPort. Ideally, you would open those photos with that software, but it's no longer available. However, the program is now sold under a different name, Kofax PaperPort, for \$99 (see tinyurl.com/mh4u8jrb). If you don't want to spend that much, you can get a 15-day free-trial of Kofax PaperPort (see tinyurl.com/8m57nhue).

Note that, to use the PaperPort free trial, you must give your name and e-mail address. You must then download the program as a compressed file (makes the file smaller so that it downloads faster.) It can be opened by pressing "Unzip" in the installation menu.

You can then make it easier to view your photos in the future; use Kofax PaperPort to convert the .max files to the more widely used Adobe PDF file format (.pdf). The PDF format can be read by several different programs, such as the free Adobe Acrobat Reader DC (see tinyurl.com/ykx4n9um). Be sure to

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune



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uncheck the "optional offers" before downloading the Adobe program.

Q: My computer contains a program named "Killer Control Center." I don't know what it is or how it got on my computer, but neither the Malwarebytes nor Kaspersky security programs classify it as harmful. What should I do about it?

A: Despite its ominous name, Killer Control Center is legitimate PC networking software now owned by Intel, and it is distributed on new computers by manufacturers such as Dell.

The Killer software is used by your PC's "network interface card," which handles incoming and outgoing data. It monitors which programs or websites are using the most data, and lets you give some programs higher priority for using your internet connection. This prevents a few heavy-data-use programs, such as online games or video websites, from using up all your internet capacity. (For details, see tinyurl.com).

com/23vm7h5j). If you don't use a lot of data-intensive programs, you probably don't need Killer Control Center and can uninstall it.

Q: When I log into Facebook on my PC, I get multiple choices for what to put in the username box—the choices include my e-mail address and password, and the e-mail addresses of my daughter and grandson. I've asked Facebook for help, but they haven't answered. What can I do?

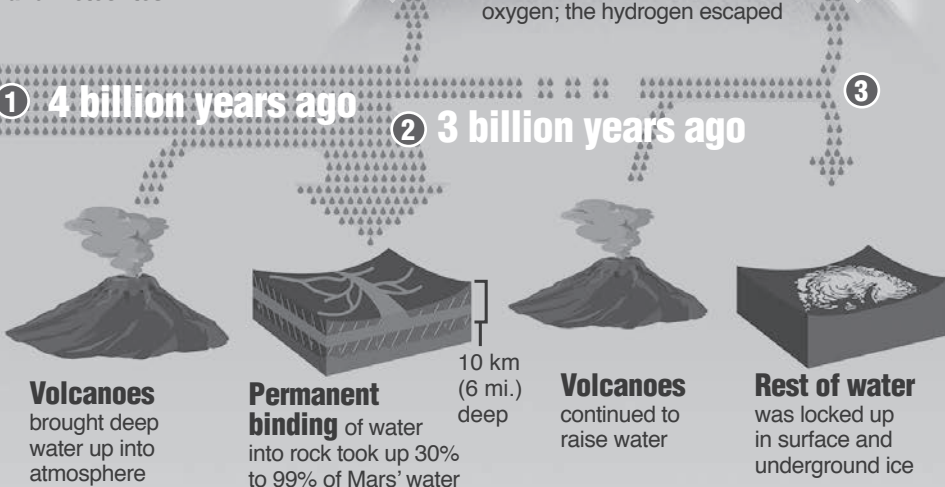
A: The problem is caused by your web browser, not Facebook. The browser has retained your Facebook user name (your e-mail address) and password to make it easy for you to log in (you don't have to type them.) But, because your daughter and grandson have at some time logged into Facebook on your PC, the browser has also saved their e-mail addresses, and lists them as choices. Fortunately, you can remove unwanted usernames and passwords from your browser (see tinyurl.com/9tyck3ak).

Science Matters

Mars' water, long locked into rock

The surface of Mars bears clear signs of ancient seas. A new analysis concluded that not all of that water escaped into space; much was incorporated into layers of Mars' rocks.

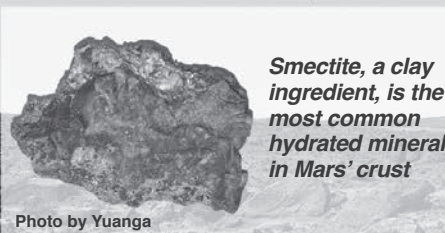
This model of Mars' past is based on geological and chemical evidence from rovers, spacecraft and meteorites



1 Ancient water was equivalent to 100 to 1,500 meters deep over the whole planet

2 Mars dried out between 3.7 and 4.1 billion years ago, losing as much as 95% of its surface water

3 Current dryness was reached about 3 billion years ago



Smectite, a clay ingredient, is the most common hydrated mineral in Mars' crust

Source: E.L. Scheller and E.L. Ehlmann of California Institute of Technology; Science magazine
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Poll: Most in US who remain unvaccinated need convincing

(AP)—Fewer Americans are reluctant to get a COVID-19 vaccine than just a few months ago, but questions about side effects and how the shots were tested still hold some back, according to a new poll that highlights the challenges at a pivotal moment in the U.S. vaccination campaign.

Just 11% of people who remain unvaccinated say they definitely will get the shot, while 34% say they definitely won't, according to the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Af-

fairs Research.

That leaves a large swath of Americans in the middle who might still roll up their sleeves—including 27% who say they probably will and 27% who say they probably won't—if someone credible addressed their concerns. That's where National Institutes of Health immunologist Kizzmekia Corbett comes in.

Corbett helped lead development of the Moderna shot, and she spends hours giving plain-spoken answers to questions from Americans—espe-

cially Black Americans like her—to counter misinformation about the three vaccines used in the U.S.

No, COVID-19 vaccines won't cause infertility: "Whoever started that rumor, shame on you."

No, the shots' speedy development doesn't mean corners were cut: "We worked our butts off for the last six years" hunting vaccines for earlier cousins of COVID-19—a head start that made the difference, Corbett recently told the AP.

Life & Style

Ellen DeGeneres to end long-running TV talk show next year

NEW YORK (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres is calling time on her long-running talk show.

The daytime host, who has seen a ratings hit after allegations of running a toxic workplace, has decided that the upcoming 19th season will be the last, ending in 2022. It coincides with the end of her contract.

“Although all good things must come to an end, you still have hope that the truly great things never will,” Mike Darnell, president of unscripted TV for Warner Bros., said in a statement Wednesday. “It was and is an indelible piece of the

television landscape, and it will be sorely missed.”

In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, which first broke the news, DeGeneres said that “as great as this show is, and as fun as it is,” it’s no longer a creative challenge.

“The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” which started airing in 2003 and is distributed by Warner Bros., has a mix of dancing, games and giveaways along with A-list celebrities. But the host, who built her brand on the motto “Be Kind,” opened season 18 in September with a lengthy apology.

Three of the show’s pro-

ducers exited over the summer amid allegations of a dysfunctional workplace that harbored misbehavior, including sexual misconduct and racially insensitive remarks.

While the allegations were “very hurtful to me” they didn’t influence her decision to leave the show, DeGe-

neres told The Hollywood Reporter. “I wouldn’t have come back this season” if they had, she said.

Nielsen data shows “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” viewership dropped by 1.1 million people this season, from 2.6 million



DeGeneres

Barack Obama in 2016. In

viewers to 1.5 million viewers.

DeGeneres was the recipient of the Kennedy Center’s Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in 2015 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom under

addition to her talk show, she has had a hand in Fox’s “The Masked Dancer,” NBC’s “Ellen’s Game of Games” and HBO Max’s “Ellen’s Next Great Designer.”

DeGeneres’s scripted TV show “Ellen” became a historic landmark in TV history in the 1990s when her character came out as gay.

New fellowship gives \$25,000 grants to Puerto Rican writers

NEW YORK (AP)—A new fellowship co-sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will provide \$25,000 for emerging and established Puerto Rican writers.

On Wednesday, the Mellon Foundation and the Flamboyant Foundation’s Arts Fund announced the establishment of the Letras Boricuas Fellowship for 30 Puerto Ricans, age 21 and up, in Puerto Rico and elsewhere who write poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction or children’s literature. The first 15 winners will be announced in November, and all are tentatively scheduled to meet in San Juan in 2023.

Among those welcoming the news: “Hamilton” playwright and son of Puerto Ricans, Lin-Manuel Miranda. In a statement, he called the fellowship “an important means of supporting Puerto Rican artists in their journey to tell

more stories. This collaboration to amplify the work and voices of these creators, both in Puerto Rico and across the U.S. diaspora, will further enrich and enhance the literary experience for all of us.”

Carlos Rodríguez Silvestre, executive director of Flamboyant Foundation Puerto Rico, said in a statement that the fellowship would help address what he calls the “existing lack of support” for Puerto Rican writers.

“At Flamboyant Foundation we can’t think of a better way to honor the rich heritage and diversity of Puerto Rican literature in the archipelago and the diaspora than creating a fellowship that lets writers do what they know how to do best,” he said.

The deadline for applications is June 20. More information can be found on www.letrasboricuas.org.

MADRID (AP)—A Spanish foundation awarded Serbian performance artist Marina Abramovic one of the European nation’s most prestigious awards for the fine arts on Wednesday.

The jury that decides the Princess of Asturias Awards said that the work of the 74-year-old Abramovic revealed “a sensorial and spiritual component hitherto unknown.”

The 50,000-euro (\$56,700) award is one of eight prizes, ranging from the arts, social sciences and sports, handed out annually by a foundation named for Spanish Crown Princess Leonor.

Born in Belgrade in 1946, Abramovic studied fine arts in her hometown and Zagreb before she moved to Amsterdam in 1976. Her performances

include the 1988 “The Great Wall Walk,” in which she and German artist Ulay walked from opposite ends of the Great Wall of China before meeting in an embrace.

At the 2010 retrospective of her work held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Abramovic performed her “The Artist is Present,” in which she spent 716 hours

sitting still while thousands of museumgoers took turns sitting in front of her and sharing one another’s gaze.

The jury said that “Abramovic’s courage in her dedication to an absolute art and her adhesion to the vanguard produce moving experiences that demand an intense connection with the spectator and make her one of the most inspiring artists of her time.”

The items are part of a slate of rock items being offered up by Iconic Auction, spanning Elvis to grunge. The auction closes Saturday. A portion of proceeds will benefit Crew Nation, a relief fund for live music touring and venue crews who are facing hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic.

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WASHINGTON (AP)—Famed actor Phylicia Rashad is returning to her alma mater as the new dean of the Howard University College of Fine Arts.

The longtime performer and Tony Award winner, who role to cultural prominence as Clair Huxtable on “The Cosby Show,” graduated magna cum laude from Howard with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts in 1970.

Provost Anthony K. Wutoh called the appointment a “full circle moment” and said in a statement that Rashad’s “passion for the arts and student success makes her a perfect fit for this role.”

Rashad’s return to campus represents a reemergence of

from the grunge rock icon are part of a series of Nirvana offerings that also includes a Cobain amp and a rare group-signed blue Stratocaster-style guitar. The hair was cut by a friend in 1989 and the minimum bid is \$2,500.

The Marshall amp has “Kurt” written faintly in the

top right corner and was used by Nirvana during the ‘90s, as well as while the band filmed its “Live and Loud” video. It was later used by Hole and OPM after Cobain’s death. The minimum bid is \$15,000. (A guitar Cobain used for his MTV Unplugged show recently sold for \$6 million).

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Phylicia Rashad to lead Howard College of Fine Arts

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the fine arts college; the College of Fine Arts was merged into the College of Arts and Sciences in the late 90s. Rashad, in a statement, said it was a “privilege” to play a role in “reestablishing the College of Fine Arts.”

Howard University Presi-



Rashad

dent Wayne Frederick said that Rashad “will play an instrumental role in ensuring an auspicious beginning for this reestablished institution.”

Howard Fine Arts alumni include actors Taraji P. Henson and the late Chadwick Boseman, as well as Bradford Young, the first Black cinematographer to be nominated for an Oscar for 2017’s “Arrival.”

Sister-in-law is burdened by knowledge of man’s philandering

DEAR ABBY: My husband works out of town with his brother, who is married. While I’m not close to my sister-in-law, I like her just fine.

My problem is, my husband keeps sharing with me that his brother is unfaithful while he travels, and I have actually overheard him on a call with my husband trying to show my husband nude pictures of other women. I cannot express how much this boils my blood. It’s not only from the perspective of someone who has been cheated on before (not by my husband), but also that his brother’s bragging with photos shows he doesn’t respect ANY marriage or relationship.

I feel stuck with deciding whether I should share this information with my sister-in-law, or if it would be overstepping some kind of boundary where it’s not my business. Because I don’t talk with her often, I’m afraid I would just cause drama where I shouldn’t have put my nose. But I believe she’s a good wife and mother, and I feel awful and burdened by the knowledge that her husband isn’t faithful to her.

Should I keep this to myself and rely on “karma” to one day reveal his transgressions, or should I give her the information I have? (It involves no hard proof except my husband’s word and what I overheard.) My husband thinks I should keep quiet and says he would be uncomfortable being put in a position to “out” his brother.

TEMPTED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TEMPTED: Your brother-in-law is a conscienceless, immature braggart. “Karma” won’t protect your sister-in-law from syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, herpes and HIV, to name only a few of the STDs her husband has been exposing her to. Tell her it’s important she schedule an appointment with her doctor to be tested for all of them. Isn’t that what you would want if the situation were reversed?

DEAR ABBY: I have two adult daughters. One of them is self-centered and refuses to give any gifts for my birthday or for Christmas, even though she very much likes receiving them.

If this is her position, then I suppose that’s OK because I don’t need much, and it’s really the thought that counts. I enjoy giving gifts, but I feel like I’m being taken advantage of.

This is exacerbated by the fact that, in the past, I have bailed her out of some sticky situations. I know that’s a different issue—and I have set boundaries for that—but this gift thing has frustrated me twice a year for the past 10 years, and it’s time for a better plan. Help, please.

GOOD DAD IN OREGON

DEAR DAD: If the situation was fine, you wouldn’t have

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

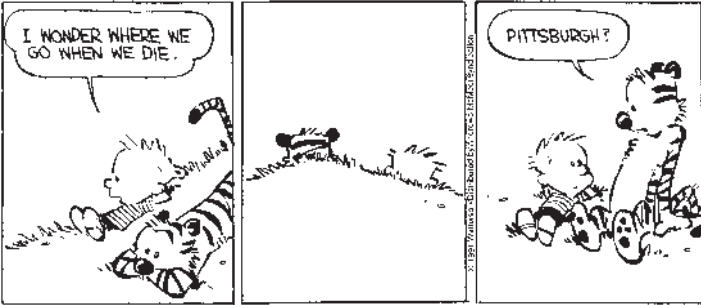


written to me about it. I believe in communication. Have a long-overdue talk with your daughter. Showing thoughtfulness isn’t supposed to be a one-way street, which is what your daughter has made it. More important than a tangible item is the thought behind it. From where I sit, if she doesn’t bother to call or text you on these special occasions, I think your generosity has been taken advantage of.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



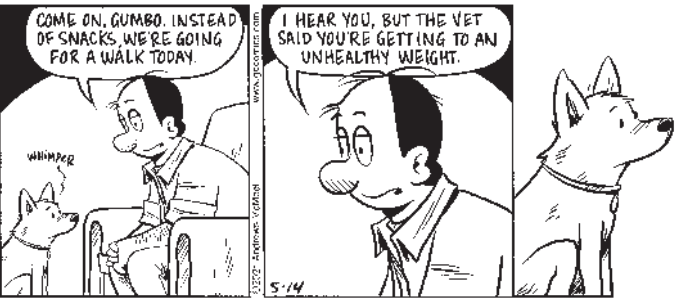
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Weep
- 4 Pretzel
- 8 Big party
- 12 Eggs
- 13 Peter
- 14 Fonda's beeper
- 15 Wicked
- 16 Cohort of Harry and Ron
- 17 Caesar's "I came"
- 18 Highly decorated
- 19 "That'll be — day!"
- 21 French article
- 22 Guided the flock
- 26 Antelope or goat
- 29 Hardly any
- 30 Rock's Brian
- 31 Classic theaters
- 32 Misbehaving
- 33 Lure
- 34 Dead heat
- 35 Roulette bet

DOWN

- 1 Silver
- 2 salmon
- 3 Winnebago
- 4 owner, briefly
- 5 Fish story
- 6 Was right for
- 7 Palliative plants
- 8 "Dancing with the Stars"
- 9 judge
- 10 Goodman
- 11 Acquired canines
- 12 Flu
- 13 symptom
- 14 Night
- 15 before
- 16 Badge
- 17 metal
- 18 Yalie
- 19 Misfortunes
- 20 Corp. leaders
- 21 Nile
- 22 vipers
- 23 Apply cream
- 24 JFK info
- 25 Corn core
- 26 Mound stat

16 Sasha's sister

20 Chop

23 Beloved

24 Oklahoma city

25 Pixels

26 This and that

27 Garfield's pal

28 Swerve

29 Passing craze

32 Hotel staffer

33 Louisiana waterway

35 Uncivilized

36 Pub on wheels

38 Hooch

39 "Thank you, Henri"

42 Misfortunes

43 Corp. leaders

44 Nile

45 Apply cream

46 JFK info

47 Corn core

49 Mound stat

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Miranda Cosgrove, 28; Cate Blanchett, 52; Tim Roth, 60; George Lucas, 77.

Happy Birthday: It's important to look at all sides of a situation, but don't miss out because you can't make up your mind. Take action this year, and you will make headway. Set goals, remember budgets and have expectations in mind, and you will find it easier to move forward with clarity and cause. Pay close attention to contracts, documents and expirations. Your numbers are 6, 13, 23, 27, 31, 33, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Align yourself with people who have your back, share your beliefs and bring out the best in you. Put personal growth, physical fitness and meaningful relationships on your priority list. Romance will improve your personal life. Choose harmony over discord. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take better care of your finances. Don't spend money lavishly when saving for a rainy day will ease stress. Commit to taking care of your responsibilities and to making your position and intentions clear to the people you care about most. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep your facts straight. If you make a mistake, you will be held accountable. Pay attention to detail, and live within your means. Taking a chance on someone or something will backfire. Love and romance will help stabilize your life. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Mull over the good and bad of a situation before you get involved. Take a pass if someone pres-

sures you for money. Consider what's important to you, and contemplate the contribution that has the best impact. Make realistic promises. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your involvement in something you feel passionate about will connect you to like-minded people. Share ideas, concerns and remedies, and you will come up with a doable plan. Romance will enhance your life and encourage more stability. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone will offer misleading information. Check facts, ask questions and don't buy into someone's plan. If you want to make a difference, do something that will benefit you as well as those you care about most. Walk away from temptation. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your time and energy into something that will enhance your awareness, qualifications and popularity. Use your charm, reach out to people of influence and share your insight into trends. Hard work will pay off. Party with someone you love. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't consider an offer if you can't afford to participate. Listen, then use the information you receive to formulate a plan that works well for you and is within your budget. Change begins with you, and your happiness is your responsibility. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take a serious look at your relationships with others and determine who is good for you and who isn't. Say no to people promoting indulgence, and gravitate toward those who bring out the

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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best in you. Make your intentions clear. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a moment to recap what's happened, and it will be easier to bring about positive lifestyle changes that will encourage better health and less stress. Use your ingenuity, and you'll come up with a way to bring in extra cash. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do something special for someone you love. Discuss your ideas and positive suggestions; help will be yours. Avoid excessive consumption, and put more effort into fitness, health and being productive. Romance is favored and will enhance your life. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful what you say and do. Someone will misinform you or twist your words. Play by the rules, live up to your promises and avoid reputation-damaging situations. Make a positive change before someone complains. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are responsible, caring and generous. You are accommodating and friendly.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			5			1				
		3								
	6		1		9			3		
2		1	6			3				
				9						
	8			3	7		4			
9			4	7		5				
					2					
		4		6						

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	3	6	4	8	7	5	9	1
7	1	4	3	9	5	8	2	6
5	9	8	6	2	1	3	4	7
9	7	2	1	5	8	4	6	3
8	6	1	9	4	3	7	5	2
3	4	5	7	6	2	9	1	8
4	5	7	8	1	6	2	3	9
1	8	9	2	3	4	6	7	5
6	2	3	5	7	9	1	8	4

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JESSICA WALTER (1941-2021) Solution: 10 letters

GOODEKANACIREMAL
LMALORYMSPSTARR
EUUNITYYGSESICNR
ISCSSBICITYHOME
BTKIBROOKEENORS
MIMTLOISYROLEUT
ANESHNLWAPANELE
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Harden returns from hamstring injury, Nets beat Spurs



NEW YORK (AP)—James Harden had 18 points and 11 assists in his return from an 18-game absence to help the Brooklyn Nets beat the San Antonio Spurs 128-116 on Wednesday night.

Coming off the bench in an NBA game for the first time since he won the league's Sixth Man award for Oklahoma City in 2011-12, Harden also had seven rebounds after the longest layoff of his career, missing more than a month because of a strained right hamstring.

Landry Shamet scored 21 points and Nicolas Claxton had a career-high 18 for the Nets. They won their third straight and pulled within 1 1/2 games of Philadelphia for the Eastern Conference lead.

Kevin Durant had 14 points, seven rebounds and seven assists. The Nets played without Kyrie Irving after he left their victory in Chicago on Tuesday with a facial contusion. They still have had their three superstars play together just seven times.

But they put eight players in double figures and shot 60.8% to wrap up a league-best 22-8



record against Western Conference teams.

DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points for the Spurs. They missed a chance to secure a spot in the play-in tournament.

Hawks 120, Wizards 116

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 33 points and John Collins hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 24.4 seconds remaining and Atlanta beat Washington to clinch its first playoff berth since 2017.

Under interim coach Nate McMillan, who should receive strong consideration in the coach of the year balloting, the Hawks have posted a 25-11 mark to stamp themselves as a dangerous opponent heading into the postseason.

Russell Westbrook had

34 points and 15 assists for Washington. Two nights after breaking Oscar Robertson's record with his 182nd career triple-double, Westbrook came up a bit short of No. 183. He was held to five rebounds.

Lakers 124, Rockets 122

In Los Angeles, Kyle Kuzma's driving layup with 6.9 seconds remaining helped keep short-handed Los Angeles' slim hopes of avoiding the play-in tournament alive.

Houston had a final chance, but Kelly Olynyk had the ball stolen by Ben McLemore with 0.9 seconds remaining. Talen Horton-Tucker then hit the first free throw, but missed the second.

Horton-Tucker scored 23

points, and Andre Drummond added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who were without LeBron James, Anthony Davis and Alex Caruso. James was ruled out for the sixth straight game due to a high right ankle sprain, while Davis (groin) and Caruso (foot) aggravated injuries during an overtime win over the Knicks on Tuesday night.

Olynyk and Armoni Brooks scored 24 apiece for the Rockets (16-54) and Kenyon Martin Jr. added 20. Houston has dropped seven straight and 44 of its last 49.

Mavericks 125, Pelicans 107

In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 33 points, Kristaps Porzingis

added 19 in his return from injury and Dallas beat New Orleans to take a big step toward avoiding the play-in tournament.

The Pelicans were eliminated from postseason contention while playing without four starters. Lonzo Ball was scratched with a strained right thumb, joining Zion Williamson (broken left hand), Brandon Ingram (sprained left ankle) and Steven Adams (sprained toe) on the sideline.

The Mavericks can clinch at least the sixth seed in the Western Conference playoffs with a win in either of their two remaining regular-season games against a pair of eliminated teams in Toronto and Minnesota.

Eric Bledsoe and Jaxson Hayes scored 15 points apiece

Brooklyn Nets' James Harden (13) looks to pass away from San Antonio Spurs' Rudy Gay (22) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, May 12, 2021, in New York.

for the Pelicans.

Trail Blazers 105, Jazz 98

In Salt Lake City, Damian Lillard scored 30 points and CJ McCollum added 26 to help Portland beat NBA-leading Utah.

Carmelo Anthony added 18 points for Portland. The Trail Blazers have won five straight and nine of 10 to tie Dallas for the fifth position in the Western Conference.

Jordan Clarkson scored 29 points to lead Utah. Rudy Gobert added 15 points and 20 rebounds for the Jazz. The lost their second straight game, cutting their lead over Phoenix to 1 1/2 games.

Cavaliers 102, Celtics 94

In Cleveland, Kevin Love scored a season-high 30 points, Collin Sexton added 28 and Cleveland beat Boston to end an 11-game losing streak, locking the Celtics into a spot in the NBA's play-in tournament.

Love made six 3-pointers, including two in an 11-0 run early in the fourth quarter, and had 14 rebounds as Cleveland closed out a miserable season at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse with its first win since April 21.

Jayson Tatum scored 29 points for Boston. The Celtics have lost eight of 11.

Pistons extending Casey through 2023-24 season

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Pistons have agreed to a contract extension with coach Dwane Casey through the 2023-24 season.

The team confirmed the agreement Wednesday.

"Dwane's ability to adapt and lead us through a challenging but very exciting year of growth and development has further established his place as one of the most highly respected coaches in the NBA," Pistons owner Tom Gores said. "He is fully committed to the restoration of the Pistons where his competitiveness, teaching ability and developmental acumen can be seen in the growth of our young players."

Casey is wrapping up his third season with the rebuilding Pistons, who at 20-50 have the second-worst record in the NBA. Detroit is at the bottom of the Eastern Conference, but the Pistons do have some young players who have shown promise, such as rookies Saddiq Bey and Isaiah Stewart.

Detroit has completely overhauled its roster since the start of 2020, parting ways with Blake Griffin, Andre Drummond and several other players who received significant playing time.

3s for all: NBA sets season record for 3-pointers per game

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

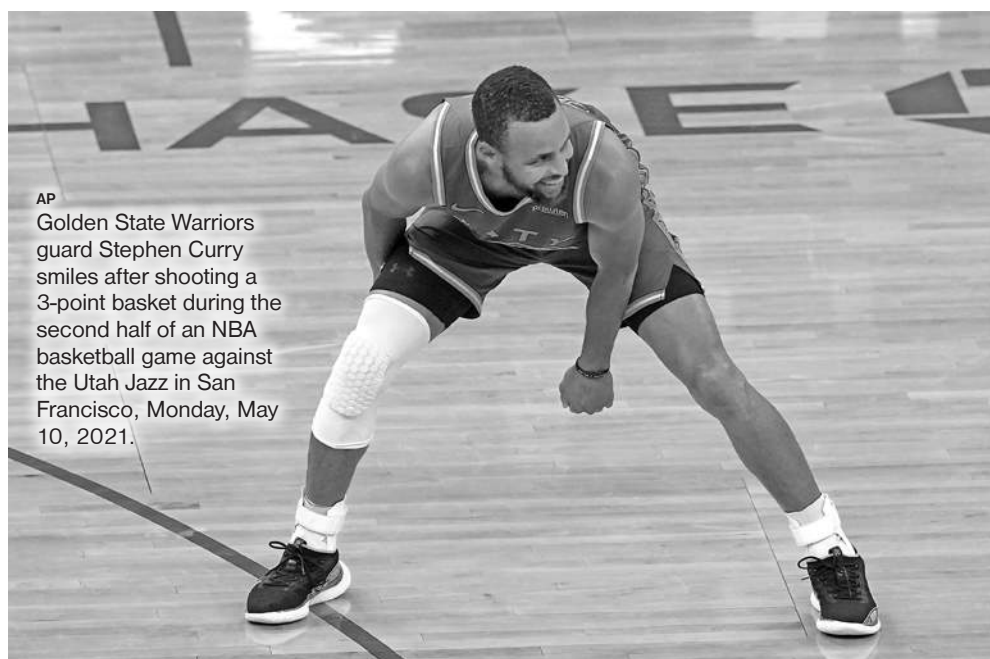
The NBA's 3-point dependence is stronger than ever.

For the ninth consecutive season, the league record for 3-pointers made per game has been broken. Even if zero 3s are made in the final four days of a regular season that ends Sunday, the league's average in 2020-21 will be higher than any other season.

The 3s-per-game record was clinched when Washington's Davis Bertans made the NBA's 26,375th 3-pointer of the season Wednesday night. Bertans connected with 10:04 left in the fourth quarter of the Wizards' game against Atlanta.

Teams entered Wednesday averaging about 12.7 made 3s per game this season. The previous mark was 12.2 per game, set last season.

There's no shortage of other 3-point marks that were bro-



ken in 2020-21.

The Utah Jazz are already assured of breaking the previous NBA mark for most 3-pointers per game by a team over a full season; they entered Wednesday at 16.8 per game, certain to pass the mark

of 16.1 per game set by the Houston Rockets in 2018-19.

And the record for most 3s made per game by a player in a season is on the brink of falling, with Golden State's Stephen Curry currently averaging 5.3 — 0.2 per game

more than the previous mark, set by Curry himself two seasons ago.

If Curry makes one more 3-pointer this season in either of Golden State's final two games, he will reset the record. There have also been 13

instances of players making at least 10 3s in a game this season, another record — seven of them from Curry.

The 3-point craze has no signs of slowing down, either.

Entering this season, there had been only nine instances in NBA history where a team averaged 13.5 3s per game for a full season. There are 11 teams on pace to average that many this season alone.

The rate of 3s made per game has basically doubled in the past 10 seasons, from 6.4 per game in the 2011-12 campaign to where it is now. And the rate of 3s attempted per game, as might be expected, is also on a record-setting run.

Teams are averaging 34.6 3-point tries per game, well ahead of the previous record mark of 34.1 per game set last season. This will be the 10th consecutive season in which the record for 3s attempted per game falls.

Harvey cheered by fans, routed by Mets in Queens return



NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Harvey was greeted warmly by Mets fans in his return to Citi Field and harshly by New York's hitters as the Mets beat the Baltimore Orioles 7-1 Wednesday.

Harvey pitched against his former team for the first time and allowed Kevin Pillar's two-run triple in a three-run second inning that carried the Mets to their seventh straight win.

Wearing orange and black instead of blue and orange, Harvey (3-3) gave up a season-high seven runs and eight hits in 4 1/3 innings, and his ERA rose from 3.60 to 4.81 as the last-place Orioles lost for the fifth time in six games.

Taijuan Walker (3-1) lowered his ERA to 2.20, allowing one run and four hits over seven innings as part of a five-hitter.

Dominic Smith had three hits and two RBIs for the NL East-leading Mets, who completed a two-game sweep that finished a 5-0 homestand. New York is on its longest hot streak since winning eight straight from Aug. 3-10, 2019.

Yankees 1, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Gerrit Cole struck out 12 over eight stellar innings, Aaron Hicks had a sacrifice fly and New York beat Tampa Bay amid a coronavirus outbreak that sidelined shortstop Gleyber Torres.

Cole (5-1) scattered four hits and has five starts this season of at least 10 strikeouts and no walks to break Mike Mussina's single-season team record set in 2001. Aroldis Chapman completed the four-hitter to get his ninth save.

Torres was kept out of the starting lineup as a precaution as the number of confirmed positive COVID-19 tests among the team's coach and support staff reached seven. Six of the seven are asymptomatic. All are fully vaccinated, which Boone said was blunting the effects of the virus.

Jeffrey Springs replaced Ryan Thompson (2-2) with runners on second and third with one out in the seventh and gave up Hicks' sacrifice fly.

Padres 5, Rockies 3, Game 1 Rockies 3, Padres 2, 8 innings, Game 2

In Denver, Josh Fuentes capped a big night with a two-out, walk-off single in the eighth inning after earlier hitting a two-run homer and Colorado salvaged a double-header split against virus-hampered San Diego.

The Padres, missing starters Fernando Tatis Jr., Eric Hosmer, Wil Myers and two others because of COVID-19



concerns, won the opener 5-3. Austin Nola, who's normally a catcher but was playing second base for short-handed San Diego, made a nifty catch with the bases loaded for the final out.

In the nightcap, Fuentes drove a changeup from reliever Nick Ramirez (0-1) to deep center to set off a celebration near second base as the Rockies snapped a five-game skid. Fuentes' bat provided all the run production — he homered in the second.

Yency Almonte (1-1) got the win in the late game.

Victor Caratini lined a two-out grand slam in sixth to put the Padres ahead in the first game. It came on a belt-high fastball from reliever Robert Stephenson, who was summoned after starter Jon Gray (4-3) loaded the bases.

Emilio Pagán (3-0) picked up the win with a scoreless fifth inning. Mark Melancon earned a five-out save.

Brewers 4, Cardinals 1

In Milwaukee, Travis Shaw hit a tiebreaking double and Avisail García added a two-run homer in the eighth inning as Milwaukee capitalized on some good fortune to defeat St. Louis.

The decisive rally that snapped the Cardinals' four-game winning streak came after it appeared Ryan Helsley (3-1) would retire the side in order. An apparent inning-ending strikeout of Daniel Vogelbach was foiled when the third strike got past catcher Yadier Molina for a wild pitch, enabling Vogelbach to reach first.

The Cardinals tied it in the top of the eighth on Tyler O'Neill's homer to right off Brandon Woodruff, who

struck out 10 and gave up just three hits and one walk in 7 2/3 splendid innings.

Devin Williams (1-0) retired Tommy Edman on a grounder with a runner on first to make sure the Cardinals did no more damage in the eighth.

Phillies 5, Nationals 2

In Washington, Rhys Hoskins hit a go-ahead single in the 10th inning as Philadelphia rallied and then took the lead against struggling Washington closer Brad Hand.

Philadelphia, which has taken seven of its last nine, won consecutive road games for the first time this season. Washington dropped its fourth in a row and seventh of eight to sink a season-worst six games below .500.

Hand (2-2) was staked to a 2-1 lead in the ninth. He quickly gave it back on Odúbel Herrera's one-out home run. He allowed a leadoff single to Bryce Harper in the 10th, moving automatic runner Andrew McCutchen to third. Kyle Finnegan entered and promptly surrendered Hoskins' RBI single.

José Alvarado (3-0) pitched a scoreless ninth, and Héctor Neris worked a perfect 10th for his seventh save.

Indians 2, Cubs 1, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Amed Rosario's bases-loaded single with two outs in the 10th inning gave Cleveland a win over Chicago.

Rosario, who drove in Cleveland's first run with a sixth-inning double, singled to right on a 1-1 pitch from Keegan Thompson (1-1), giving the Indians a sweep of the two-game series.

Chicago threatened in every inning except the eighth but finished 1 for 15 with runners in scoring position and stranded 15 baserunners. Joc Pederson drove in the Cubs' only run with a double in the sixth.

Nick Martini was the Cubs' automatic runner in the 10th against James Karinchak (1-0). Jason Heyward walked, but Idemaro Vargas struck out attempting to bunt. Pederson popped out, and Eric Sogard took a called third strike.

Tigers 4, Royals 2

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera drove in two runs and surpassed Omar Vizquel for the most major league hits by a Venezuelan player, leading Detroit past slumping Kansas City.

Cabrera's two RBI singles gave him 2,878, one more than Vizquel, who played his last game in 2012 and was a coach for Cabrera and the Tigers from 2014-17.

Kansas City lost its 10th straight. Danny Duffy (4-3) gave up a season-high four runs in six innings.

Casey Mize (2-3) allowed two runs on three hits and two walks in six innings. He hit one batter and struck out four. Three Detroit relievers finished, with Gregory Soto pitching the ninth for his fourth save.

Blue Jays 4, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Teoscar Hernández hit two homers and drove in three runs, Hyun Jin Ryu pitched seven sharp innings and Toronto beat Atlanta to continue its dominance of the Braves.

Toronto improved to 5-0 against the Braves this season and have outscored them

Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Matt Harvey sits in the dugout during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets, Wednesday, May 12, 2021, in New York.

35-16. William Contreras hit a long homer in the fifth for the only run allowed by Ryu (3-2).

Reliever Tyler Chatwood retired Ronald Acuña Jr., Freddie Freeman and Marcell Ozuna in the eighth. A.J. Cole pitched the ninth for his first save.

Hernández hit the first pitch thrown by right-hander Luke Jackson (1-1) in the seventh over the center-field wall, giving Toronto a 2-1 lead. He added a two-run shot 464 feet to left-center off Josh Tomlin in the ninth.

Reds 5, Pirates 1, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, Jesse Winker and Eugenio Suárez combined to drive in four runs in the 10th inning as Cincinnati's bullpen threw 5 1/3 hitless innings.

Winker singled off reliever Duane Underwood Jr. (1-2) to lead off the 10th, scoring designated runner Nick Senzel. Nick Castellanos singled and Mike Moustakas walked ahead of Suárez, who drove a pitch into the left-center gap for a three-run double.

Athletics 4, Red Sox 1

In Boston, James Kaprielian got the victory in his first major league start with five innings of one-run ball, Matt Olson homered, and Sean Murphy and Jed Lowrie also had RBIs for the A's.

Burch Smith and Lou Trivino combined to pitch three scoreless innings for Oakland, and Jake Diekmann completed a scoreless ninth for his fifth save.

Kaprielian (1-0) settled down after a rocky first inning and ended his night after giving up just four hits and three walks with six strikeouts.

Oakland pounded out seven hits and four runs against starter Eduardo Rodriguez (5-1). Boston has lost three straight.

Astros 9, Angels 1

In Houston, José Altuve and Yuli Gurriel homered early as Houston hit a season-high five long balls against Los Angeles.

Altuve launched a leadoff homer and Gurriel, who also went deep Tuesday, added his two-run shot later in the first inning. Kyle Tucker also connected for a second straight game when he smacked a two-run drive off Andrew Heaney (1-3) in the sixth to make it 5-0.

Yordan Álvarez and Chas McCormick also homered to help the Astros win their second consecutive series.

White Sox 13, Twins 8

In Chicago, touted rookie Andrew Vaughn hit his first career home run, Yasmani Grandal connected for the second straight day and Chicago outslugged Minnesota for its fifth win in a row.

José Abreu drove in three runs and Billy Hamilton matched his career high with four hits and also scored three times as the White Sox boosted the best record in the majors to 21-13.

Nelson Cruz hit his ninth homer for the Twins, who have dropped three straight and seven of eight. Josh Donaldson drove in three runs.

Dallas Keuchel (2-1) won for the first time since April 18. He allowed eight hits and six earned runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Marlins 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Cody Poteet won his major league debut and Jesús Aguilar homered for a third consecutive game as Miami edged Arizona.

The 26-year-old Poteet (1-0) gave up a run in the first inning and a solo homer to pinch-hitter Andrew Young in the fifth but was otherwise solid. The right-hander struck out six and didn't walk anyone in five innings.

The Marlins closed it out with four scoreless innings from their bullpen. Yimi García pitched the ninth for his sixth save, getting the final two outs when Aguilar made a leaping catch of Eduardo Escobar's line drive and stepped on first base to double off Tim Lincecum.

Aguilar leads the National League with 31 RBIs. He hit a two-run homer that clanged off the left-field foul pole against Matt Peacock (1-1) in the first for his ninth long ball of the season.

Sandy Leon added a solo homer in the second.

Dodgers 7, Mariners 1

In Los Angeles, Julio Urias pitched seven stellar innings of two-hit ball, Matt Beaty drove in three runs and Los Angeles beat Seattle for its first back-to-back victories in 25 days.

Max Muncy homered for the second straight game for the defending World Series champions, who opened a nine-game homestand by sweeping this two-game interleague series and interrupting their 3 1/2-week stretch of mostly terrible play.

Urias (5-1) bounced back superbly from last weekend in Anaheim, where he took his first loss since 2019. He retired Seattle's first 13 batters and yielded only two singles and a walk, striking out six.

Marianas Visitors Authority will host the Walk for Tourism 5K on May 22, 2021, beginning at 7am at the Minachom Atdao pavilion in Kilili Beach Park.

The walk, organized under the theme "Power of Travel," invites participants to dress as a tourist for a chance to win cash. Prizes are \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third place.

Registration is free and the first 100 registrants will receive a 2021 Tourism Month T-shirt. Registration will open at 6am.

"We're looking forward to a festive and fun Walk for Tourism on Saturday, May 22, and we invite everyone to come out dressed as a tourist to participate," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "As the tourism industry slowly returns to normal, this walk reminds us that tourism really does power our Marianas economy. We will continue to practice our 3 Ws against COVID at the walk, and we hope to see everyone there!"

To mark Tourism Month, the MVA is also holding a high school student essay contest. The theme "Power of Travel: COVID-19 Impact and Tour-

ism Recovery in The Marianas" invites students to describe how COVID-19 has impacted the Marianas tourism community and share their thoughts how the Marianas should move forward with tourism recovery. Entries must be in Microsoft Word and not more than 600 words.

Entries must be received by 5pm on May 25 and must be submitted to communityprojects@communityprojects@mymarianas.com.

Entries must include the student's name, grade, school, and email address. Prizes are \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place.

Winners will be contacted via email and announced on the MVA's official Facebook page: Visit The Marianas on May 31, 2021, at 12pm. The contest is open to all public and private school students all public and private school students grades 9-12. By entering, contestants agree to allow MVA to use their name, image, and essay for promotional purposes, and a parental consent form must be attached. Forms are downloadable under Events at www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas.

Walk for Tourism 5K on May 22



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hui Li, right, slips her way past a historic World War II tank on her way to winning Best Costume-Female at Saipan Marathon 2019 on March 9, 2019. The Marianas Visitors Authority will award prizes for best tourist costume during the Walk for Tourism 5K in Saipan on May 28, 2021.

tion. On Rota, Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically (MYWAVE) students join the MVA in cleaning up beaches on the island.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas or contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at 1.670.664.3200/1 or communityprojectscommunityprojects@mymarianas.com. (PR)

The Marianas.

The Hafa Adai/Tirow Pledge program will be launched this month, inviting companies, organizations, and individuals to make a deeper commitment and take more responsibility to develop, promote, and support the Hafa Adai/Tirow Spirit in The Marianas.

The public has the chance to win Tourism Month T-shirts and gift certificates by correctly answering tourism-

related trivia questions on radio stations Power 99 (97.5 FM) and KSPN2. The public is also invited to join a cleanup organized by the Japan-Saipan Travel Association on May 29 at 9am at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

On Tinian, Tourist for a Day educational field trip will educate youth through firsthand experience of how tourism effects everyone in the islands. The photo competition

"My Favorite Island Treasure Glimpses" invites people to take a picture of a Tinian attraction and provide a cap-

TINIAN

From Page 24

Saipan International School's Jude Rayphand who gained the bronze medal with a time of 34:41.

For the 100m event, Borja came out victorious with a time of 15:83, followed by Jude Rayphand who came in shortly at 16:33. Rayphand's schoolmate, Quido Jambor, rounded up the Top 3 after recording a time of 16:79.

Jun Young Seo also brought honor to his school after taking first place in the 1,500m run with a time of 7:03. Coming in at a close second was SIS' Quido Jambor who finished just a split second later at 7:04. Making the Top 3 was Andre Guerrero from Saipan Community School who came in at 7:25.

Also topping events last weekend were Jude Rayphand, who took home gold medals in the 800m and 400m course, Kagman Elementary School's Jayton Dela Cruz who topped the 60m event, and Bradley Pinola from Rota Elementary School who prevailed in the long jump event.

Rayphand bested foes with a time of 3:19 in the 800m to get a gold medal. Following him was Rota's Bradley Pinola who bagged the silver medal with a time of 3:27. Comple-

ing the Top 3 was Evan Poole from Brilliant Star School who finished at 3:32:03.

The 400m gold medal was awarded to Rayphand after finishing the course in 1:26. Landin Reyes from WSR took home the silver medal for the event with a time of 1:30 followed by schoolmate John Paul Binghit who came in 8 seconds later at 1:38.

Jayton Dela Cruz earned his gold medal in the 60m race after finishing with a time of 10:38, followed by silver medal awardee and fellow KES goer Jeffrey Pangelinan who came in at 10:63. Completing the top three was KES' Tatum Jones who finished 10:81 to earn the bronze medal.

Rota's Bradely Pinola topped the long jump with a distance of 3.22, followed by schoolmate Storm Pimentel with a distance of 3.06. Earning the bronze medal for the event was KES' Jayton Dela Cruz with a distance of 2.98.

Along with the boys 12U team, Brilliant Star School's boys 9U team won the boys elementary division with an overall score of 136 followed by Saipan International School who placed second with a score of 100. Making the Top 3 in the boys division was TES with an overall score of 88 points.

Krishnan shines in SGA April Ace

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan F&B director Das Krishnan won the Saipan Golfers Association April Ace of the Month Tournament after shooting a net score of 62 last April 18 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Krishnan fired a 36 in the front nine and 38 in the back nine for a gross score of 74,

which after his 12 handicap, gave him the score to beat in last month's monthly tournament.

Rick Kautz actually finished tied with Krishnan with a net score of 62, but he lost in a scorecard tiebreak. Kautz came away with a gross of 76 after matching Krishnan's 36 in the front nine and a 40 in the back nine for the 14-handicap golfer.



Krishnan

John "Nanni" Cruz and Steve Balakrishna came in with identical 71s, but the former took third place via scorecard tiebreak. Cruz clubbed a 45 and 43 for an 88 gross, which minus his 17 handicap, gave him a 71 net. The 9-handicap Balakrishna, for his part, came away with a 42 and a 38 for a gross of 80.

In the closest to the pin

competition, Alex Tudela was without peer in hole No. 6, Balakrishna won hole No. 8, while Ed Sablan and Krishnan topped holes No. 12 and 15, respectively.

In the longest drive competition, Cruz drove it the farthest in hole No. 7, while Juan Pan Guerrero brought the lumber in hole No. 11.

SGA's May Ace of the Month Tournament will be played at Laolao Bay Golf and Resort this Sunday, May 16. Tee time is at 9am with a show time of 8:30am.

Softball tourney promoting addiction recovery tomorrow



Any day is a good day for a softball tournament! As part of the CNMI Drug Court Month, the Drug Court Division is sponsoring a day in the sun for its members and clients, in support of

individual-centric treatment and rehabilitation.

At 9am this Saturday, May 15, recovering members of the Drug Court program are putting on a softball tournament as part of Family Fun Day. Participants and their

families will gather at the Capitol Hill baseball field to celebrate the ongoing hard work of the DCD, its members, their clients, and the successes for safety and recovery they've seen in the community.

This is one of a bevy of promotional events put on by the DCD for Drug Court Month this May, including a KKMP radio show, which was put on earlier this month, and a Walk for Recovery, still to come on May 27. (Cody Race)

SCHORR

From Page 24

University in Arkansas, 4-0. Schorr was undefeated against the three schools.

With William Woods topping its conference for the fourth straight time, Schorr and his teammates gained an automatic spot in the NAIA National Championship, which will kick off on May 18 in Mobile, Alabama.

Their streak in the conference championship also helped Schorr and company dominate the American Midwest Conference/Heart of

America Athletic Conference All-Conference awards. Schorr made it to both the All-Conference Second Team in the singles and doubles (with Westerlund). Schorr plays at No. 5 in singles and No. 2 in doubles. Shelepov made the First Team in singles and also the doubles with Ben Grumley.

"In addition to Schorr's incredibly successful first year at William Woods, he clinched three match wins, including the overall match win against No. 17 NCAA Division 2 opponent Drury University last April 18," head coach Chance

Joost said.

Schorr swept Drury's Arthur Sarlet in the singles, 6-3, 6-4, to cap William Woods' 5-2 win. He and Westerlund also prevailed against Silvain Michaud and Augustin Diot, 7-6 (8-6) to help the Owls take the doubles victory after the opposing squads split the two earlier games.

"It was a very good season and I enjoyed every moment of it. As the season went on, I started to play better and better. I did well thanks to having teammates that supported each other both on and off the court and fought together

in every match," the Saipan International School graduate said.

Schorr and the Owls are heading to Alabama this weekend to face University of Mobile in the first round of the championship, which will feature 24 out of the more than 100 schools entered in the competition this weekend. William Woods will play in the NAIA championship for the fourth time and the Owls are seeded No. 18 after finishing the regular season with a 16-3 record, while Alabama is seeded No. 15.

GOLDEN

From Page 24

the team's 7-3 victory.

She did not show up on the board for the March 21, and April 25 matches but recorded 2 points in the Feb. 28 match against Shirley's, and 1 point in the March 7 and March 14 match.

Pagarao, the third competitor for the Golden Boot Award, made it to just five of Kanoa's eight matches but she gained a shot at the Golden Boot Award when she scored 5 goals dur-

ing the May 2 match where Kanoa went up against Southern United.

In addition, she made an average of 2 points per game after contributing two points during the Feb 28, March 7, and April 18 matches where Kanoa faced TanHoldings, Southern United, and Shirley's, respectively.

In the April 25 game, however, Pagarao made it to the board after scoring 1 goal during their match against TanHoldings where they took an 8-2 victory.



Harden returns from hamstring injury, Nets beat Spurs

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24 FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four-time Northern Marianas Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Athlete of the Year awardee Robbie Schorr proved he belongs in the collegiate ranks with his impressive freshman season in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Schorr suits up for William Woods University as one of the Owls' five rookies, but has been playing like a seasoned veteran as shown in his records (both in singles and doubles) and accomplishments in his first year on the team.

The 19-year-old finished the regular season with an 11-2 mark in singles for the best percentage (84.6%) among the 10 players of William Woods. Junior and American Midwest Conference/Heart of America Athletic Conference 2021 Player of the Year Patrick Shelepov had a 12-3 mark



in singles (80%). In doubles, Schorr (he plays with either Aaron Westerlund or Zach Frisbie) earned a 10-2 mark, which was also the best record on the squad.

The 2019 Pacific Games gold medalist was instrumental in the Owls' title win in the AMC/Heart/Sooner Unaffiliated Conference Championship against Missouri Valley College, 4-0. William Woods reached the championship game, as it also shut down University of Health & Sciences & Pharmacy of St. Louis, 5-0, and John Brown

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Schorr thrives in rookie season

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Robbie Schorr in action for William Woods University in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Tinian sweeps multiple boys 9U events

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Tinian Elementary School swept a number of events in the boy 9U division during the 2021 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last Saturday.

Calen Borja and Jun Young Seo showed the way for Tinian Elementary School after topping four of the eight

championship events altogether. Borja conquered the softball throw, the 200m event, and the 100m event, while Seo topped the 1,500m race.

Borja prevailed in the softball throw, earning a gold medal after submitting a distance of 30.65m. Placing second was Damian Sablan of William S. Reyes with a distance of 29.35m. Com-



pleting the Top 3 was Chad Palacios of Tinian with a distance of 26.4m.

Later in the 200m event, Borja outpaced the competition with a time of 33:74 to gain another gold medal. Coming in at a close second was schoolmate Jun Young Seo who finished at 34:07. Making Top 3 was

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Elementary School's Calen Borja is awarded the gold medal during the boys 9U 100m event during the 2021 PSS/McDonalds All Schools Athletics Championships last weekend. From left to right, Jude Rayphand from Saipan International School, Calen Borja, and SIS' Quido Jambor.

3-way tie for Golden Boot lead

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The battle for the Golden Boot Award has come to a tie between Katrina Costales of Shirley's Football Club, Kaithlyn Chavez of Southern United, and Irish Pagarao from Kanoa FC in Division A of 2021 Dove Spring Women's League.

With just one game to go, Costales, Chavez, and Pagarao, who have recorded 12 goals apiece, have just one shot to capture this season's Golden Boot award.

Costales made it to the board in all but two of Shirley's matches, with her best scoring output seen in three

of the team's eight matches, tallying three goals in each match.

She carried the team in their first match of the season where they edged out Southern United, 7-6, scoring three of the team's winning goals. In the following match on March 7, Costales led the way with her three goals to show the way to an 8-0 victory over TanHoldings FC. In Shirley's most recent match against TanHoldings last May 2, Costales contributed three goals to the team's 9 to conquer their foe, 9-2.

Costales didn't make it on the board for the team's March 14 and April 25 matches but scored one goal

in the March 21, April 11, and April 18 matches.

Chavez, who is also vying for the Gold Boot award, made it on the board in six of Southern United's matches of the season. Her best scoring output was seen during the May 2 match against Shirley's FC, and April 18 against TanHoldings, recording three goals for each.

Chavez led the way, scoring 3 of Southern United's 5 goals, when they played against Kanoa on May 2 in which the match ended in a 5-5 draw. During the April 18 match against TanHoldings, Chavez contributed 3 points to

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Pagarao



Costales



Chavez